

DEADPOOL'S

Art of War

David – Koblish – Staples



MARVEL

DEADPOOL'S

Art of War

WRITER – PETER DAVID

ARTIST – SCOTT KOBLISH

COLORS – VAL STAPLES

LETTERER – VC'S JOE SABINO

COVER – SCOTT KOBLISH

ASSISTANT EDITOR – CHARLES BEACHAM

EDITOR – JORDAN D. WHITE

X-MEN GROUP EDITOR – MIKE MARTS

EDITOR IN CHIEF – AXEL ALONSO

CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER – JOE QUESADA

PUBLISHER – DAN BUCKLEY

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER – ALAN FINE

I HAVE SEVERAL NAMES, BUT THE ONE I AM KNOWN BEST BY IS SUN TZU WU.

ONE DAY MY SEMINAL WORK, "THE ART OF WAR," CAME TO THE ATTENTION OF HO LU, THE KING OF WU.

HE BROUGHT ME TO HIM AND SAID HE WISHED TO TEST MY THEORIES BY HAVING THEM APPLIED TO WOMEN. I AGREED.





"HE HAD SOME 180 WOMEN BROUGHT OUT BEFORE ME.

"MANY OF THEM WERE WOMEN WHO WORKED IN THE PALACE, AND ALSO MANY OF THE KING'S CONCUBINES WERE AMONG THEM.



"I TOLD THEM WHAT WAS TO BE EXPECTED OF THEM. THAT THEY WERE TO OBEY ALL ORDERS IMMEDIATELY.

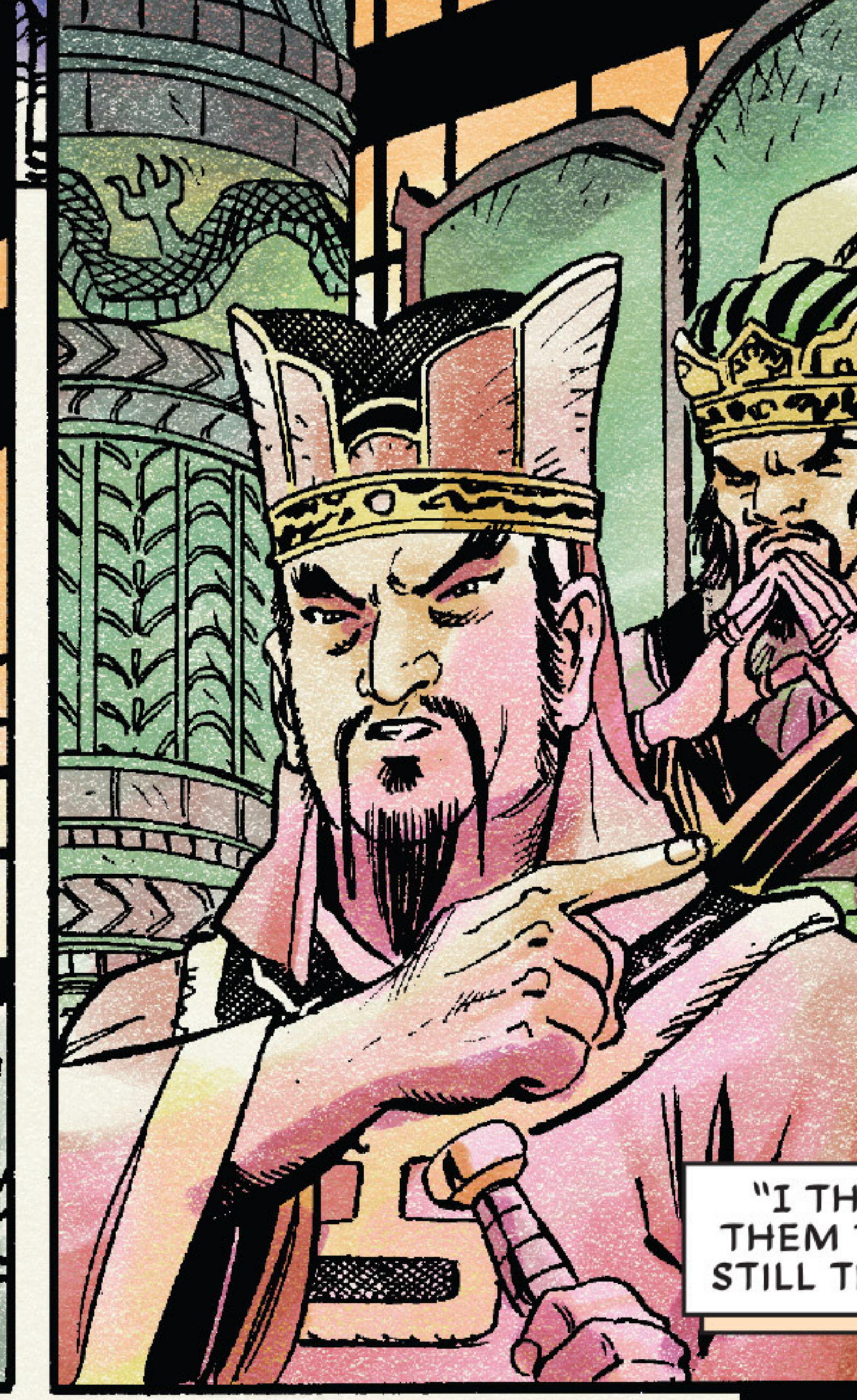
"THEY INDICATED THAT THEY UNDERSTOOD.



"I PLACED THE KING'S TWO FAVORITES AS THE HEADS OF TWO RESPECTIVE GROUPS, AND THEN ORDERED THEM TO TURN RIGHT.



"THE TWO WOMEN LAUGHED INSTEAD. APPARENTLY THEY THOUGHT IT WAS AMUSING.



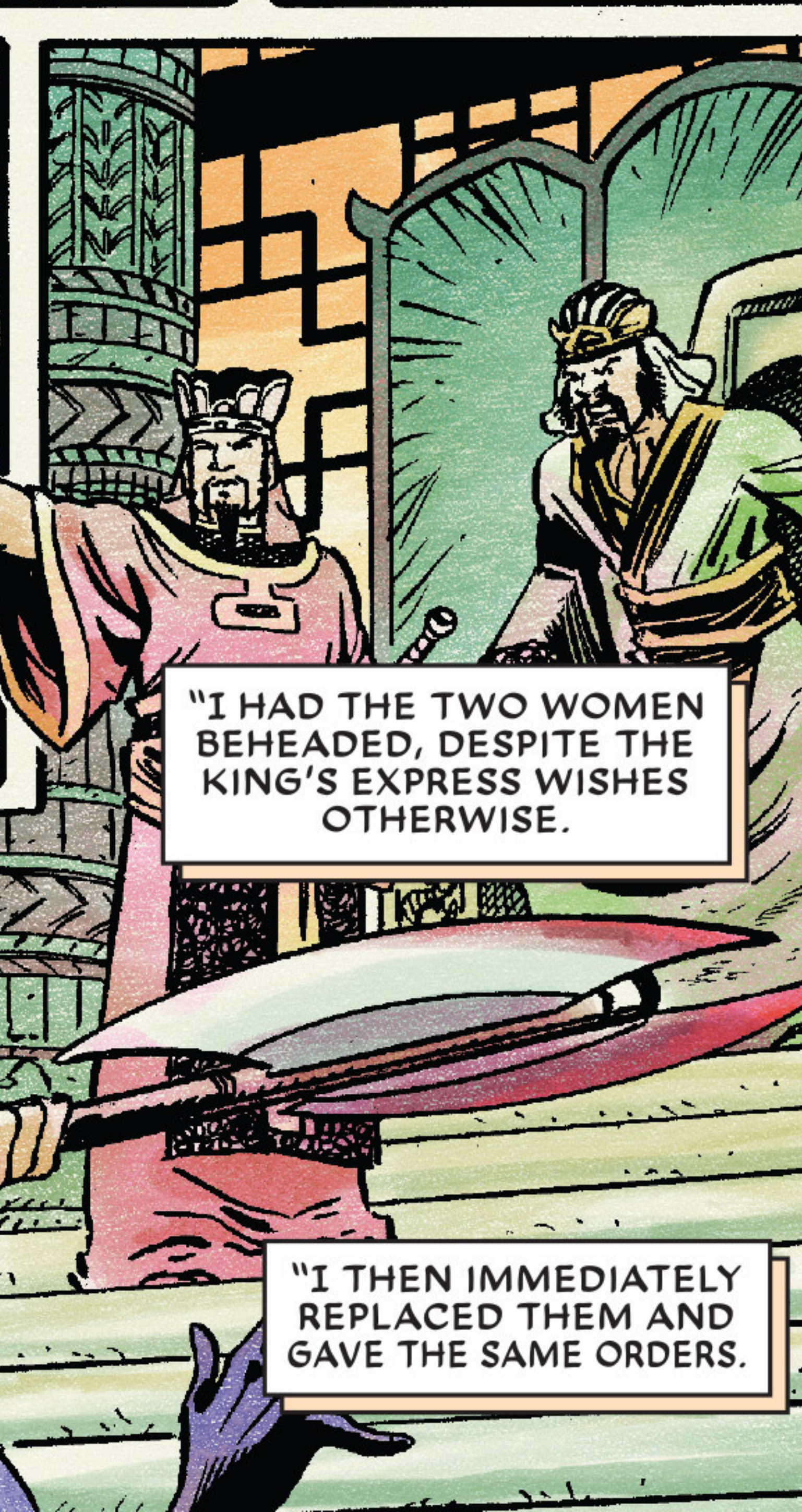
"I THEN ORDERED THEM TO TURN LEFT. STILL THEY LAUGHED."



IF WORDS OF COMMAND ARE NOT CLEAR AND DISTINCT, IF ORDERS ARE NOT COMPREHENDED, THEN BLAME THE GENERAL.

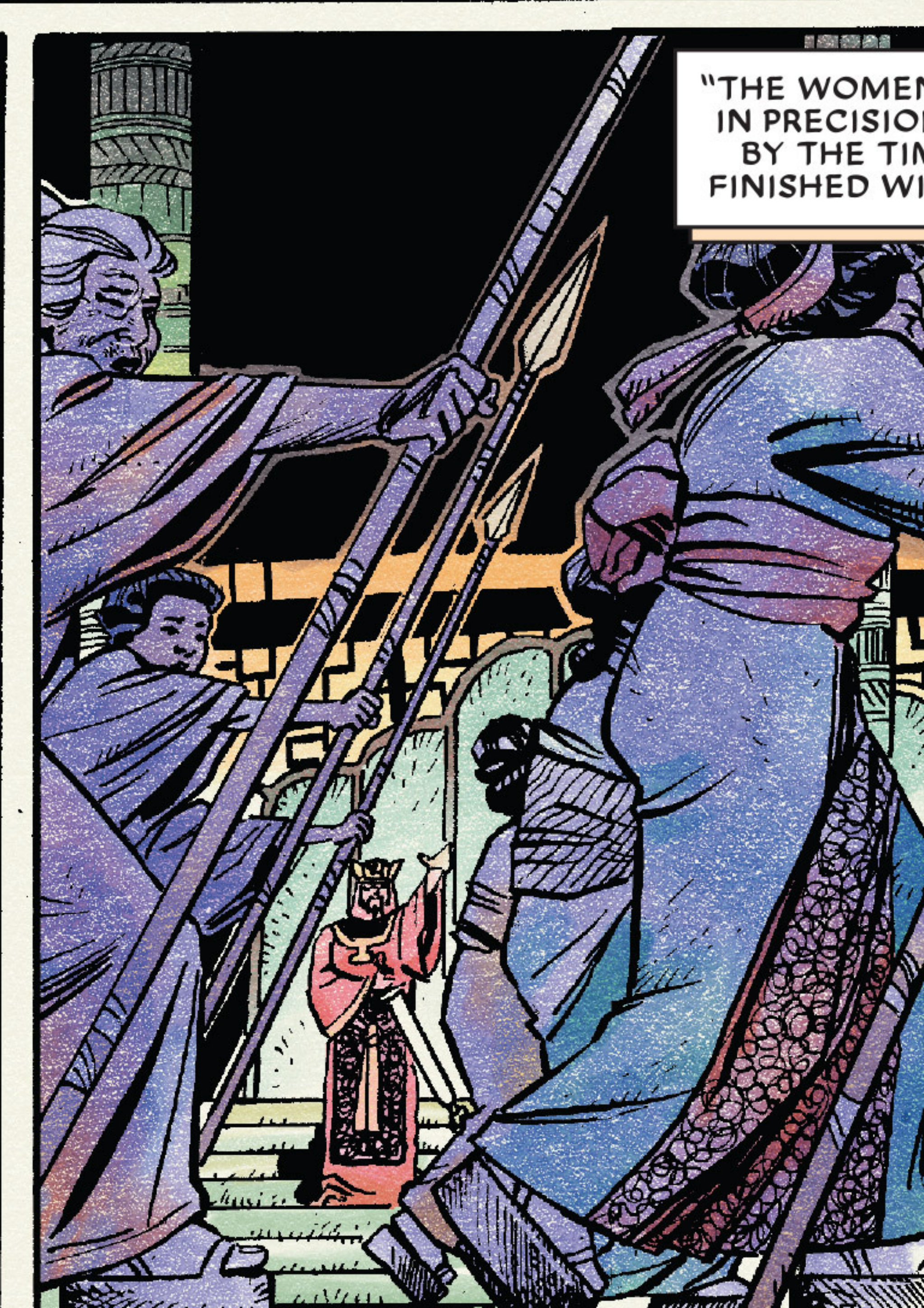
IF, HOWEVER, THEY ARE CLEAR AND THE SOLDIERS DISOBEY, THEN IT IS THE OFFICERS' FAULT.

SO I DID THE OBVIOUS THING:



"I HAD THE TWO WOMEN BEHEADED, DESPITE THE KING'S EXPRESS WISHES OTHERWISE.

"I THEN IMMEDIATELY REPLACED THEM AND GAVE THE SAME ORDERS.



"THE WOMEN MARCHED IN PRECISION. INDEED, BY THE TIME I WAS FINISHED WITH THEM...



"THEY WERE PERFECT.

"THE KING COULD HAVE ORDERED THEM TO GO THROUGH FIRE AND WATER AND THEY WOULD HAVE OBEYED."



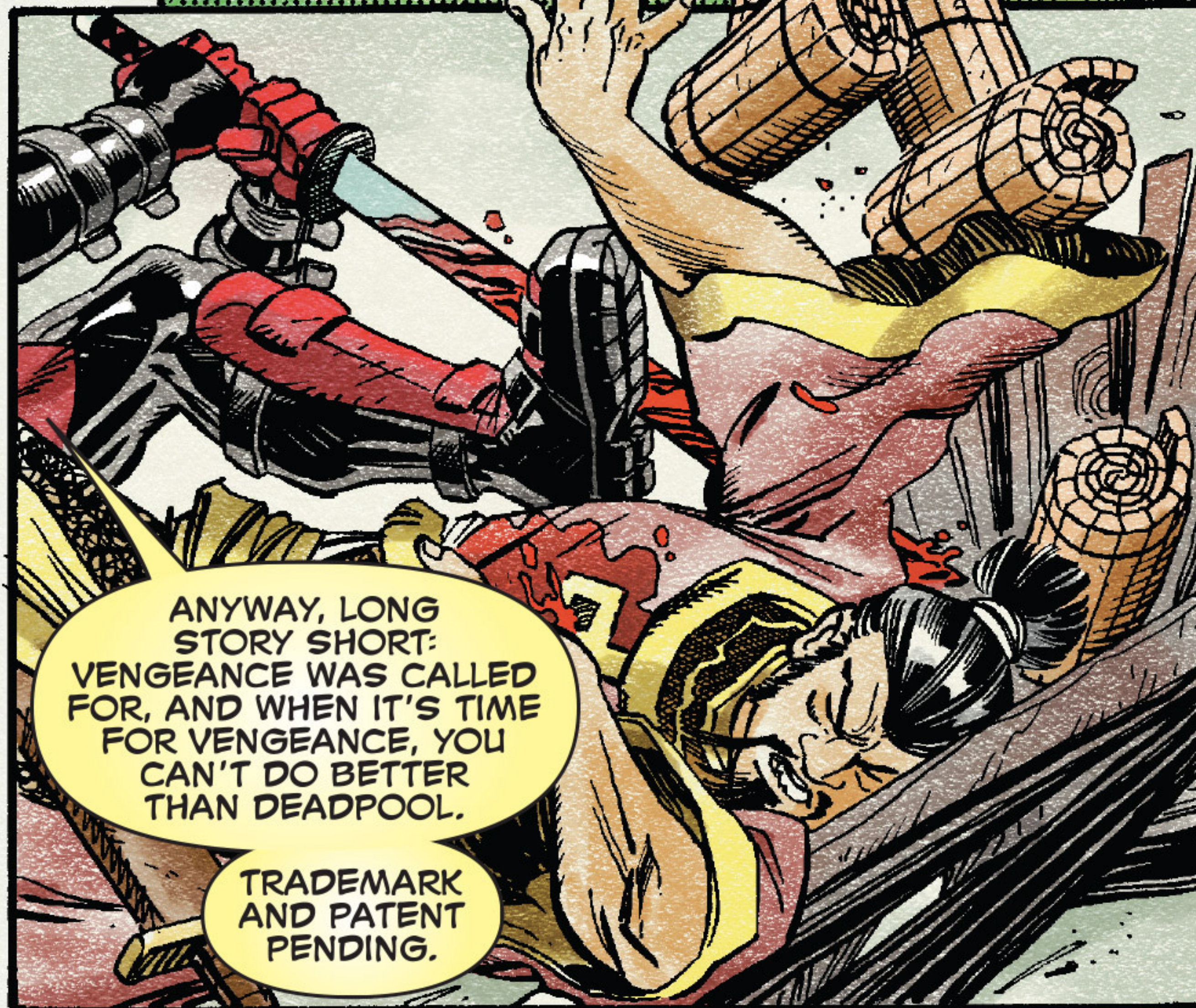
IT WAS THEN THAT THE KING APPOINTED ME GENERAL. I WENT ON TO DEFEAT THE CH'U STATE, TERRORIZED CH'I AND CHIN, AND SPREAD THE KING'S FAME THROUGHOUT.

AND THEN, I...



CASE IT DIDN'T OCCUR TO YOU, THOSE CONCUBINES HAD RELATIVES WHO WERE KINDA UPSET THAT YOU KILLED THEM. AND THEY HIRED ME T'EVEN THE SCORE.

OR MAYBE THEIR DESCENDANTS DID. IT ALL KIND OF GETS MASHED TOGETHER IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT TOO LONG.

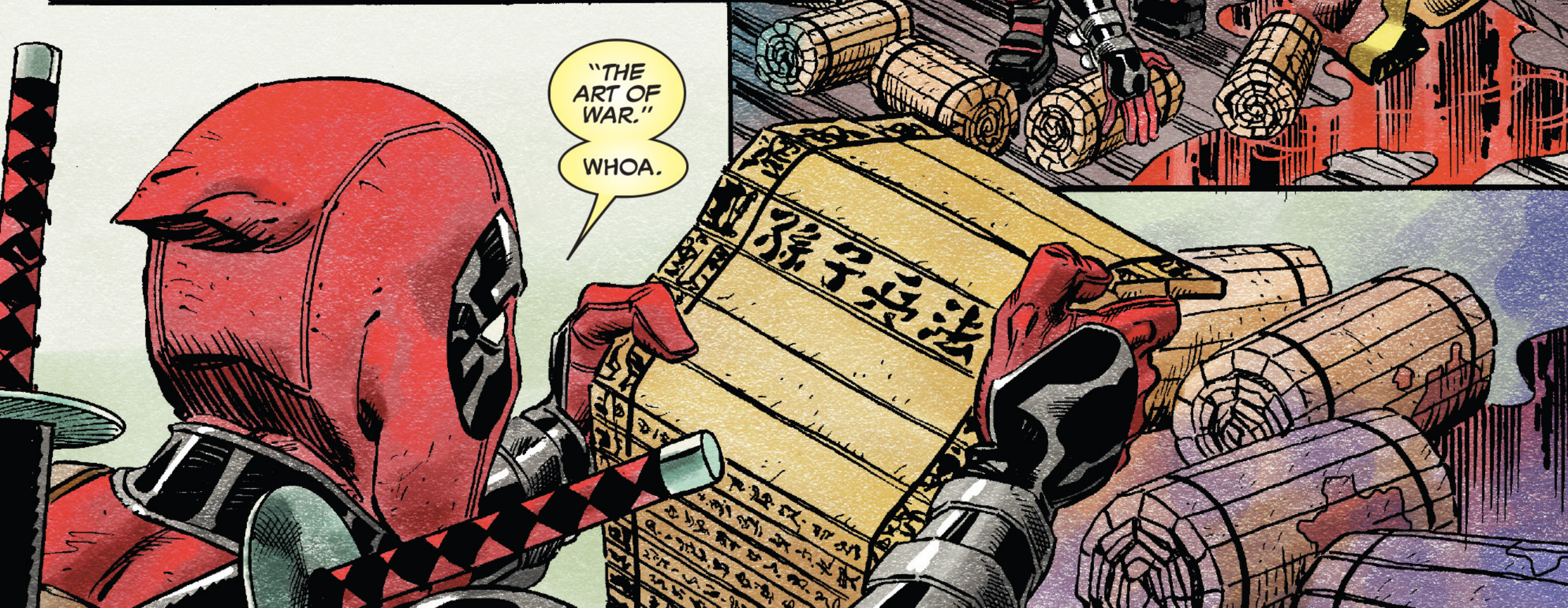


TRADEMARK AND PATENT PENDING.



"THE ART OF WAR."

WHOA.

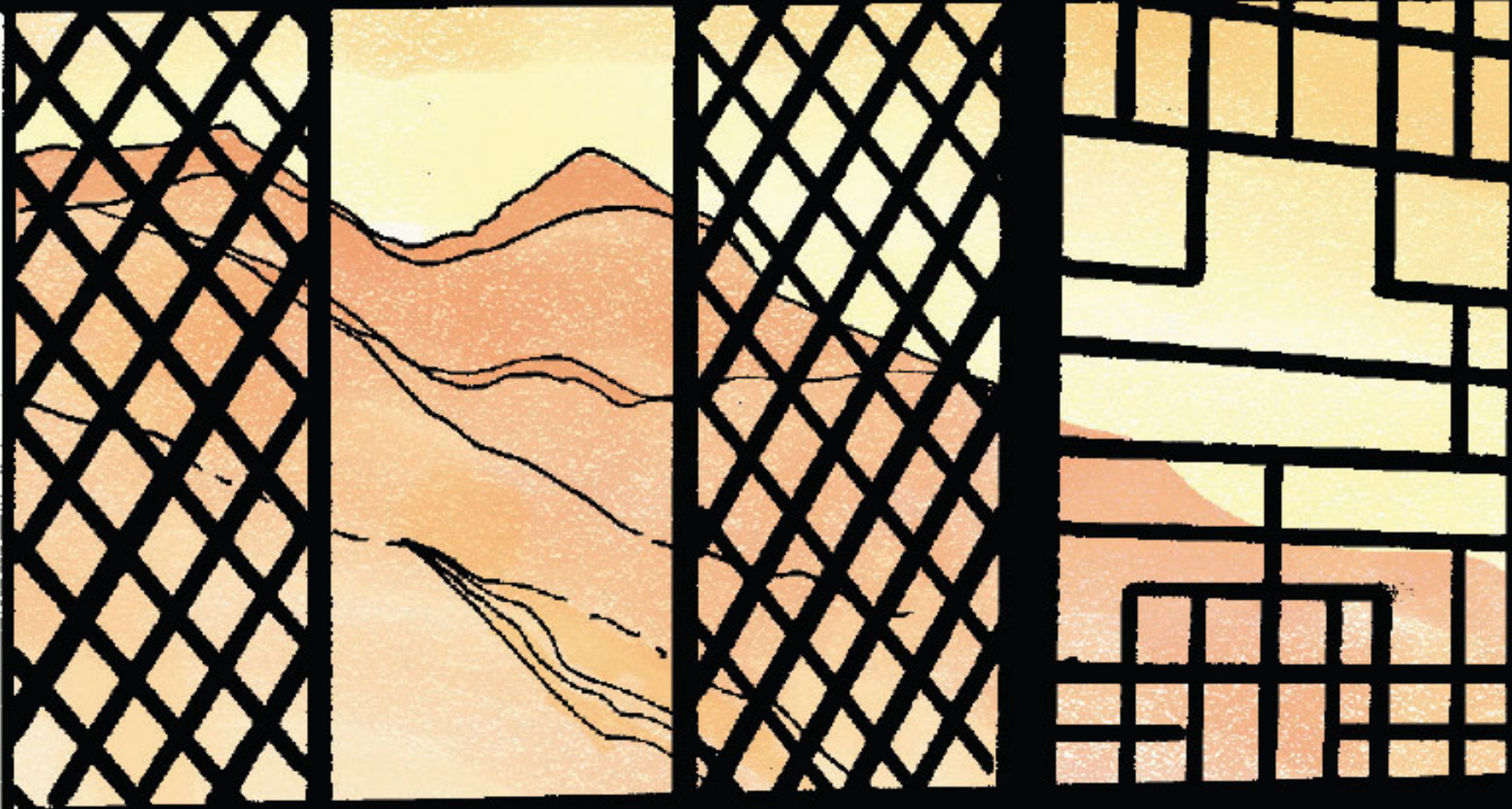




IT'S A WHOLE
SERIES OF BOOKS
ABOUT HOW TO
FIGHT WARS!

THIRTEEN
CHAPTERS OF
IT!

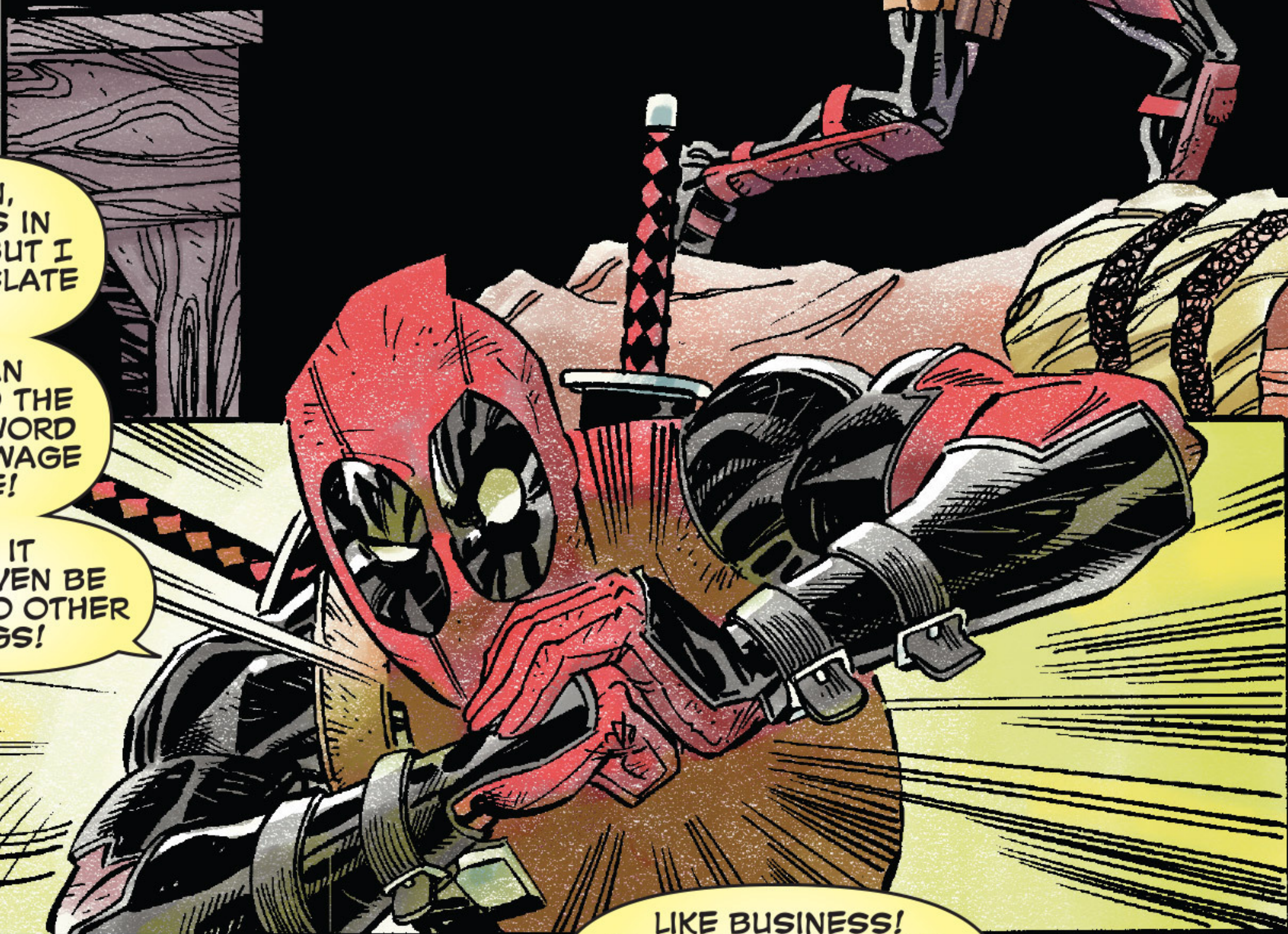
THIS IS
FANTASTIC!



I MEAN,
SURE, IT'S IN
CHINESE, BUT I
CAN TRANSLATE
THIS!

AND I CAN
TURN IT INTO THE
DEFINITIVE WORD
ON HOW TO WAGE
A BATTLE!

WHY, IT
COULD EVEN BE
APPLIED TO OTHER
THINGS!



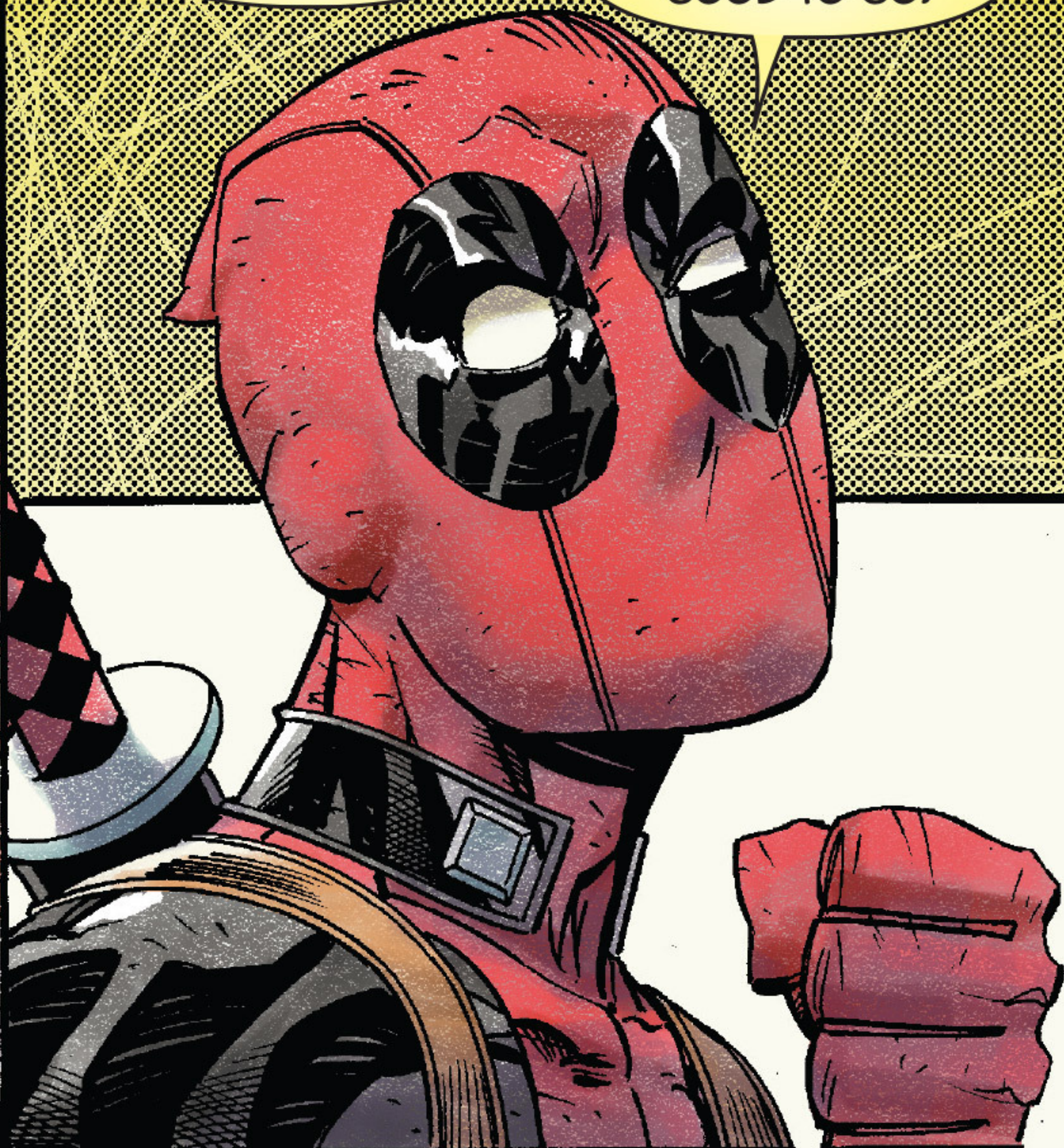
LIKE BUSINESS!
IT COULD BE TURNED
INTO A WHOLE BUSINESS
HOW-TO! HOW TO TAKE
OVER OTHER
COMPANIES!

MAKE
SMART STOCK
PURCHASES!

MANIPULATE
AND HANDLE CO-
WORKERS!

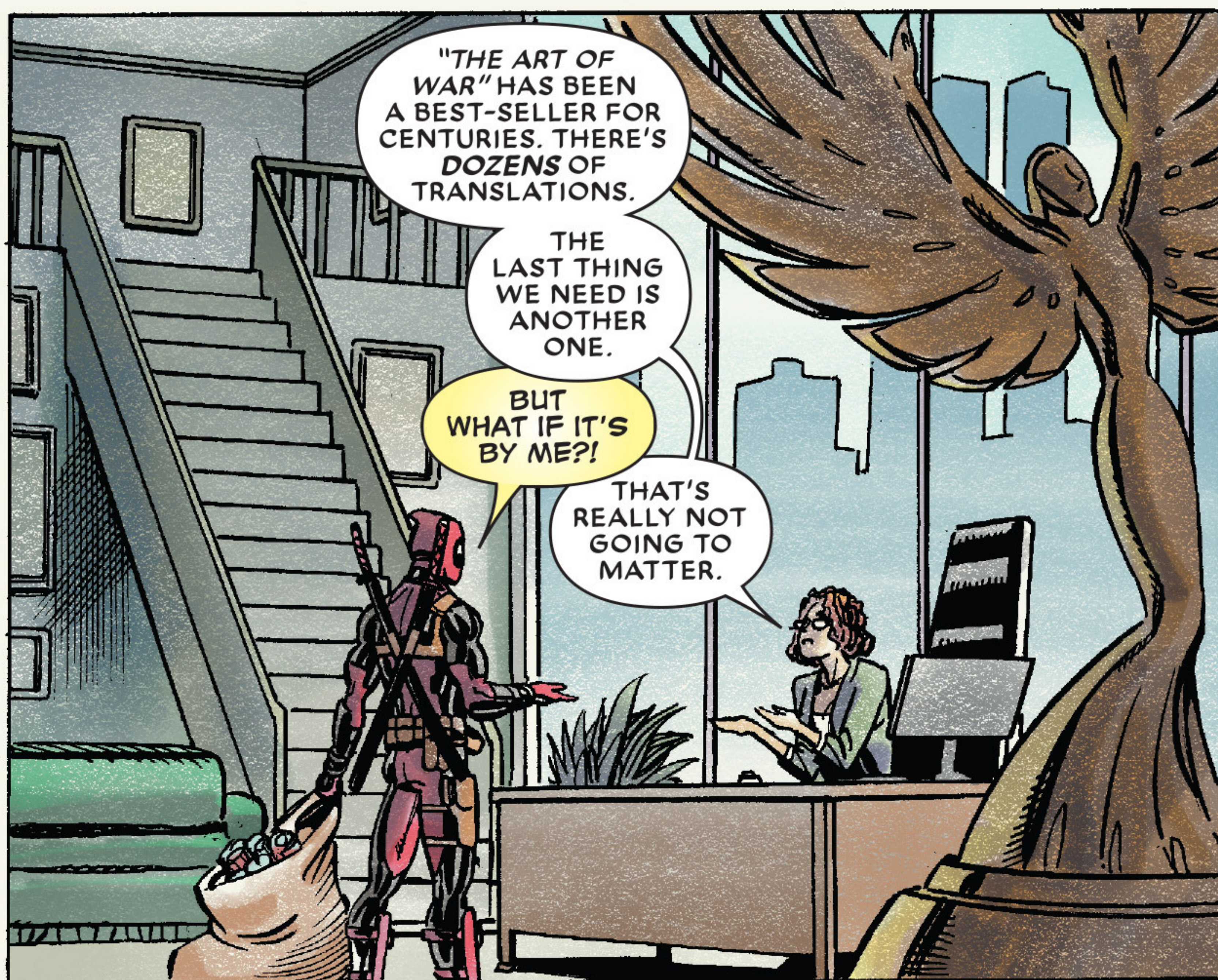
AND I
COULD MAKE
A MINT DOING
IT!

ALL I NEED IS
A MAJOR PUBLISHER
AND A MILLION BUCK
ADVANCE AND I'M
GOOD TO GO!





YOU'RE KIDDING,
RIGHT?

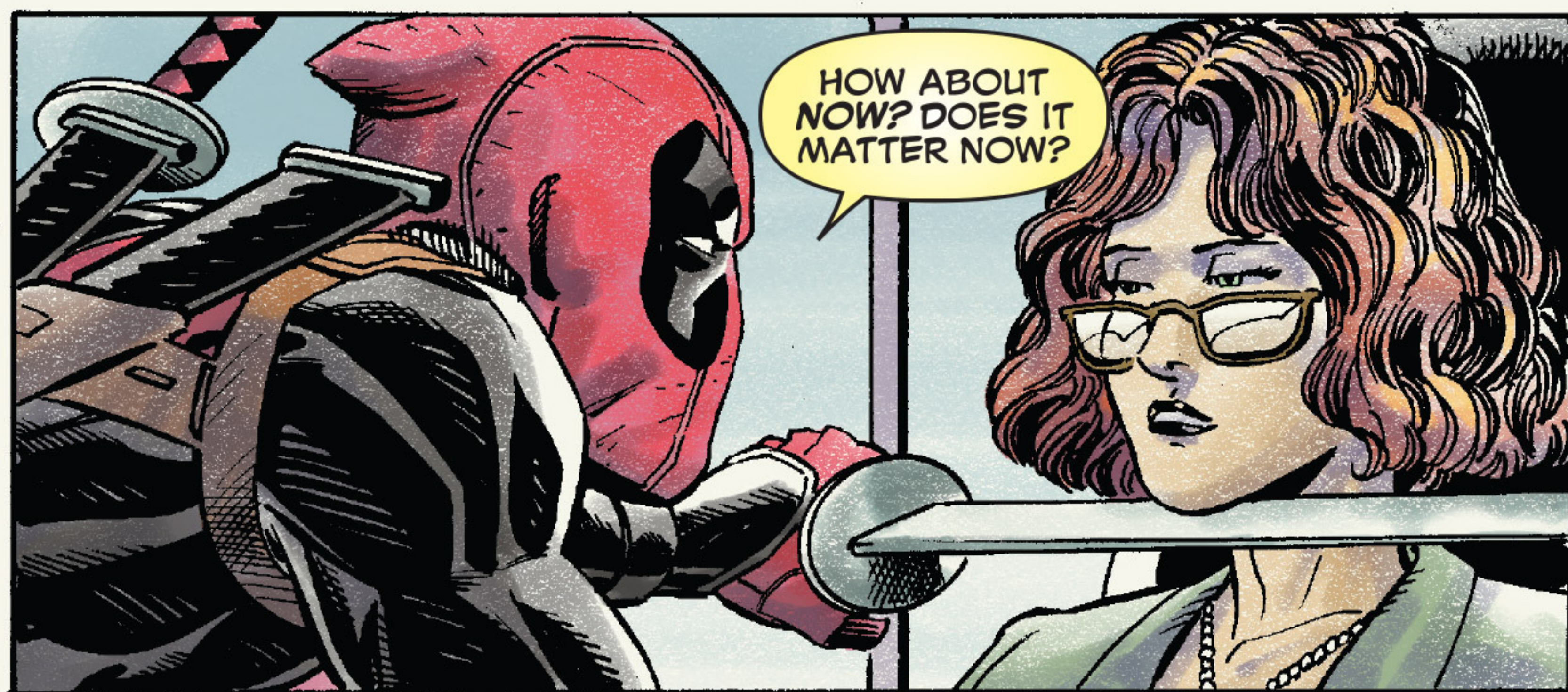


"THE ART OF
WAR" HAS BEEN
A BEST-SELLER FOR
CENTURIES. THERE'S
DOZENS OF
TRANSLATIONS.

THE
LAST THING
WE NEED IS
ANOTHER
ONE.

BUT
WHAT IF IT'S
BY ME?!

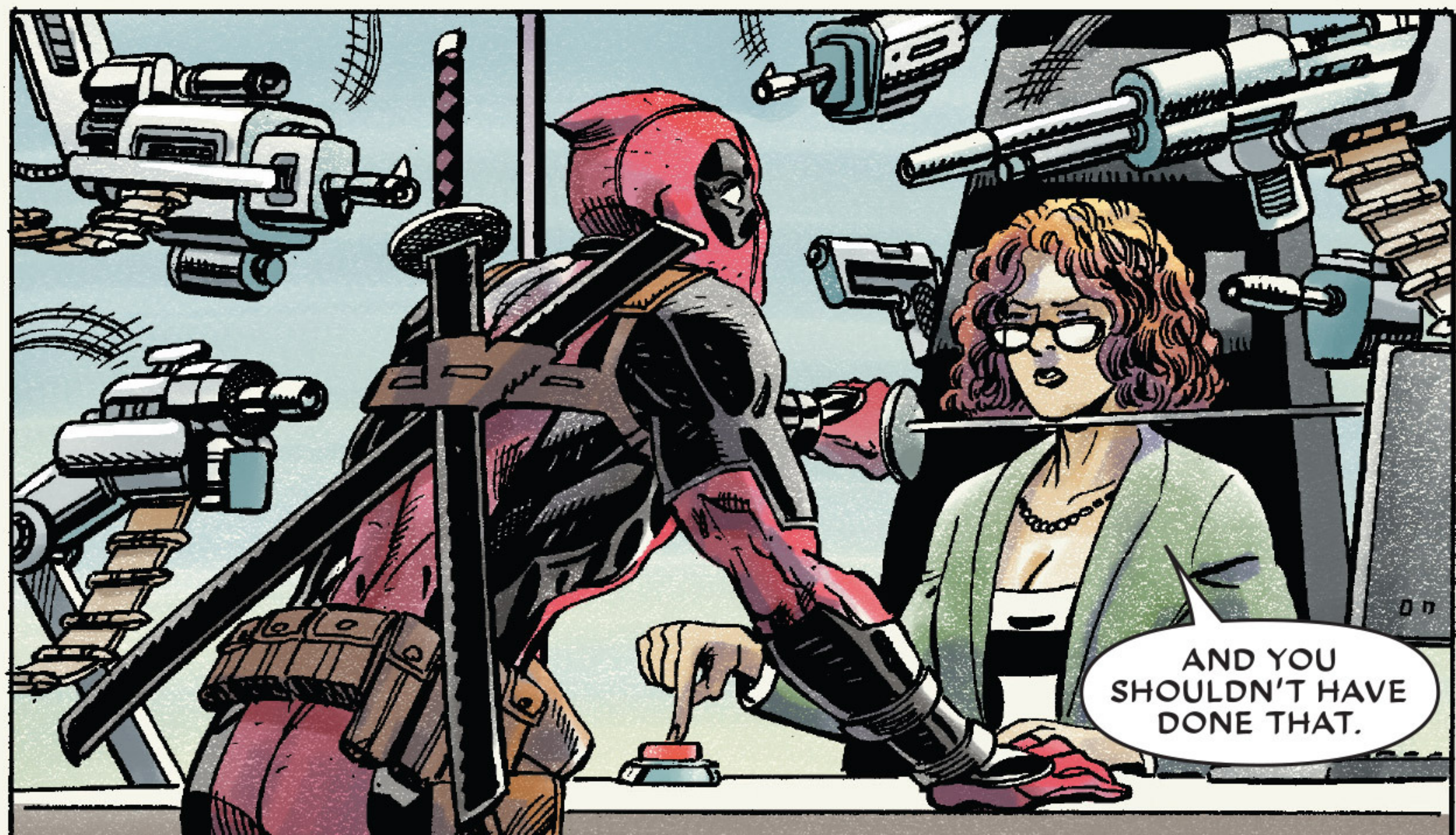
THAT'S
REALLY NOT
GOING TO
MATTER.



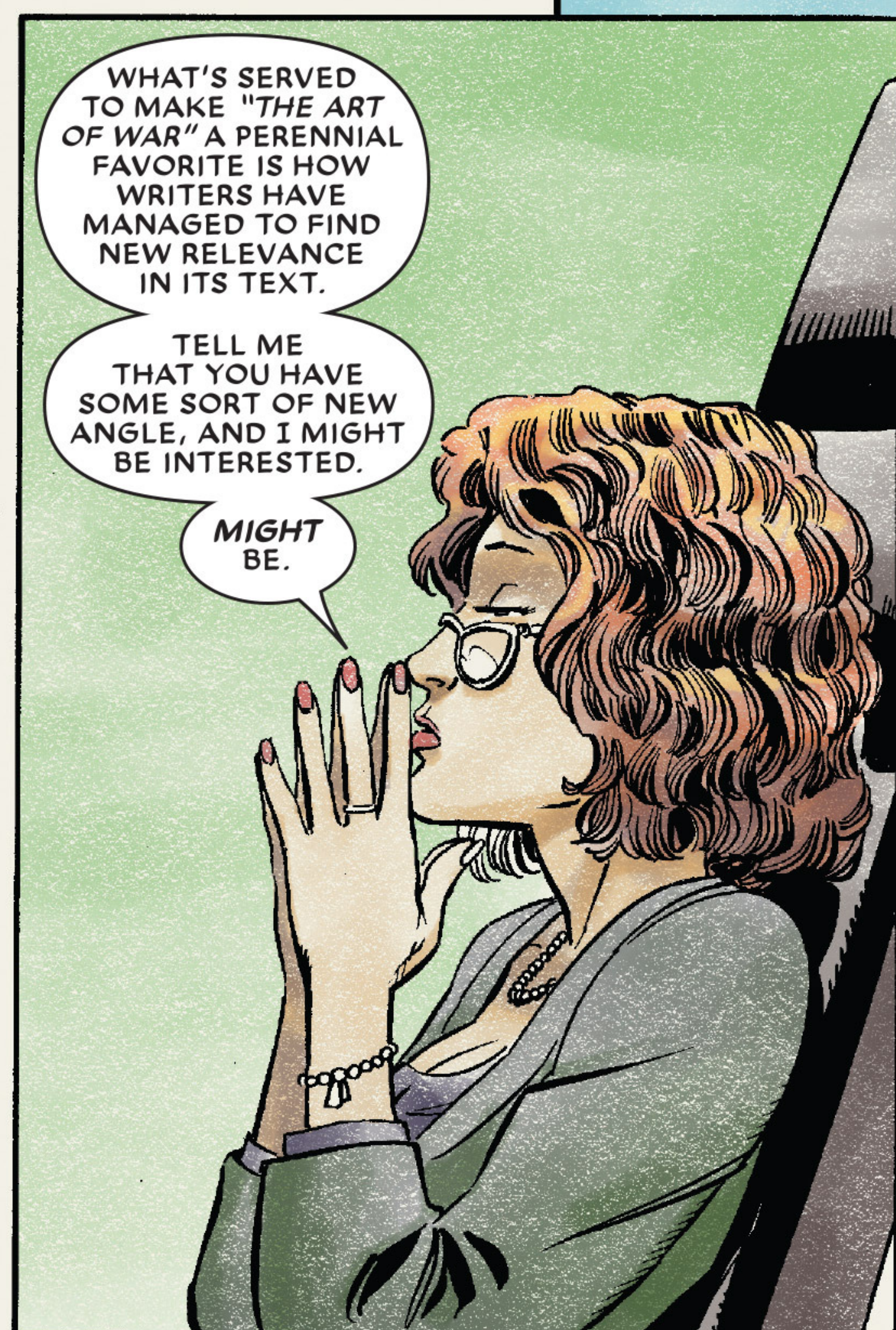
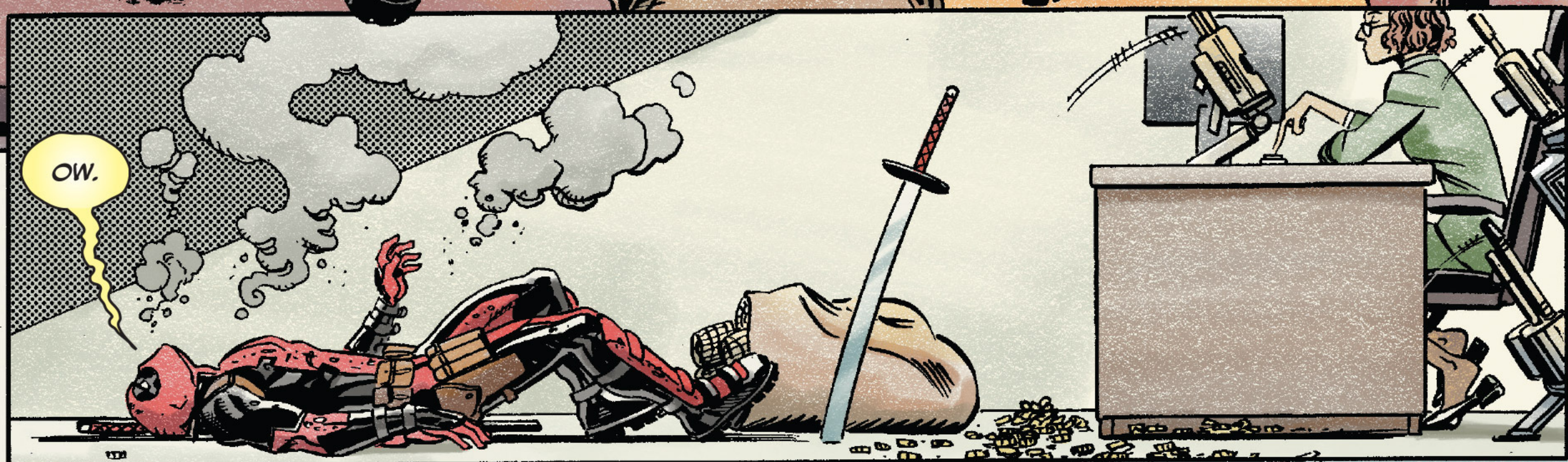
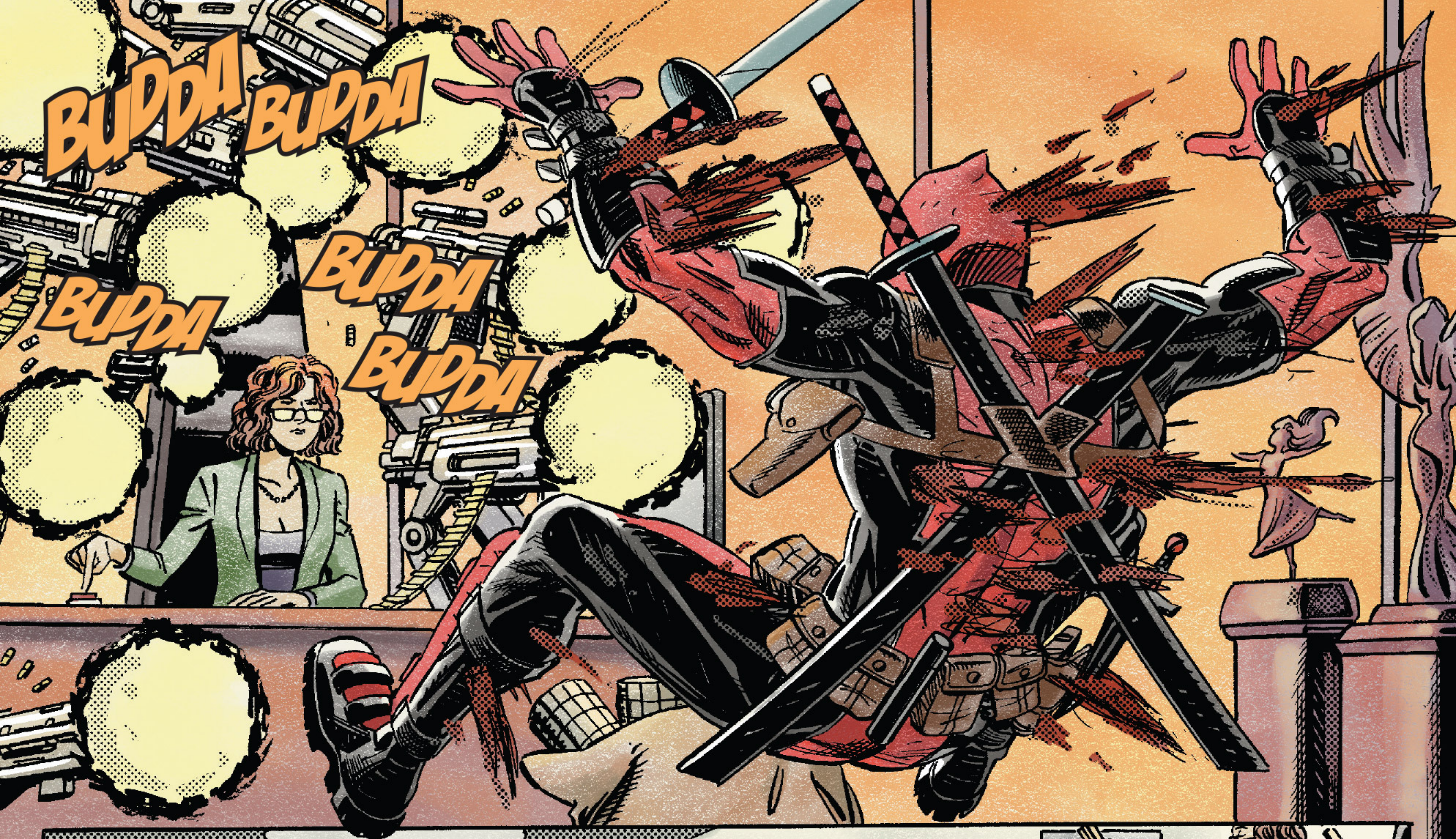
HOW ABOUT
NOW? DOES IT
MATTER NOW?

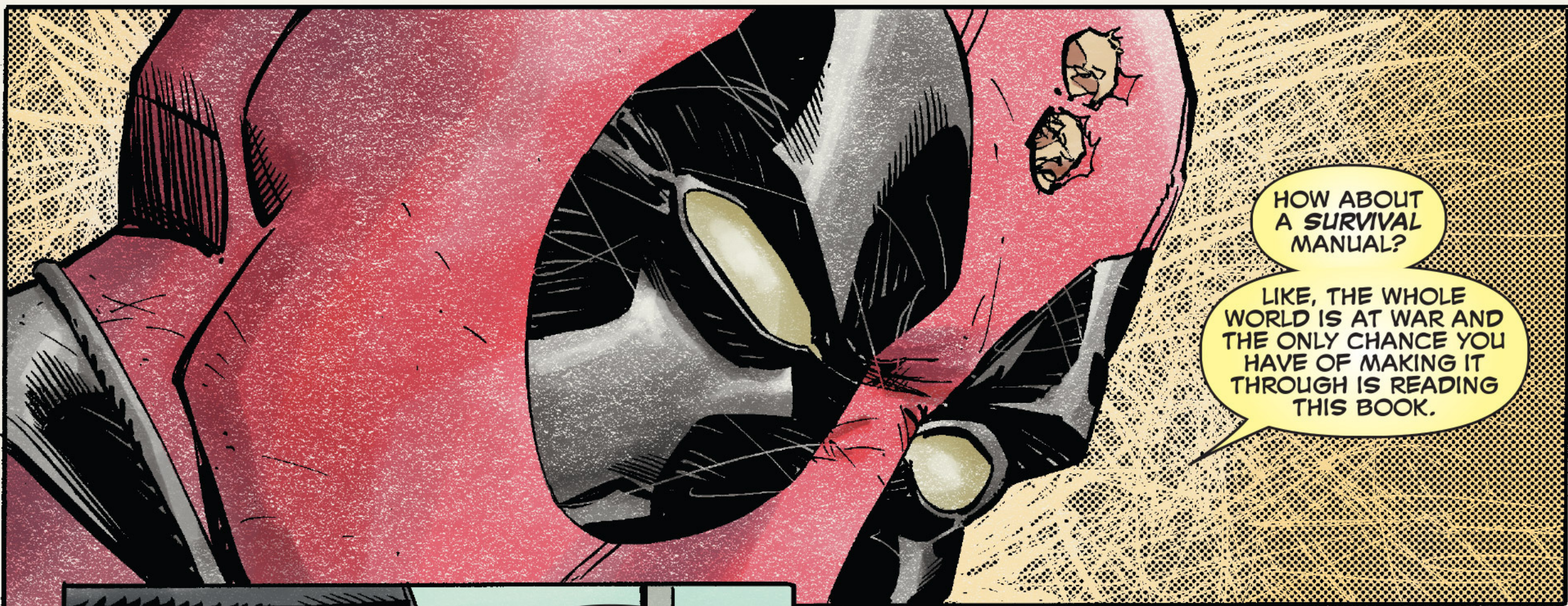


NO.



AND YOU
SHOULDN'T HAVE
DONE THAT.





HOW ABOUT
A **SURVIVAL**
MANUAL?

LIKE, THE WHOLE
WORLD IS AT WAR AND
THE ONLY CHANCE YOU
HAVE OF MAKING IT
THROUGH IS READING
THIS BOOK.



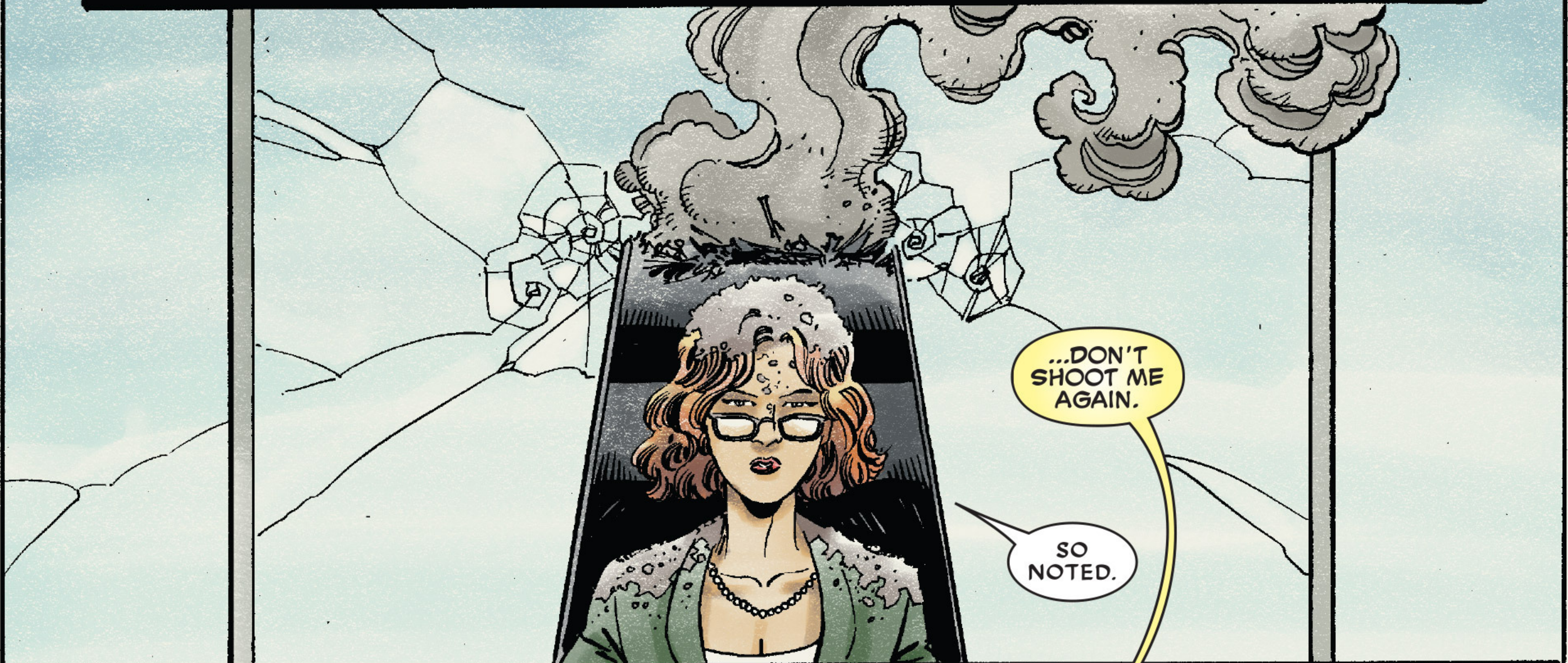
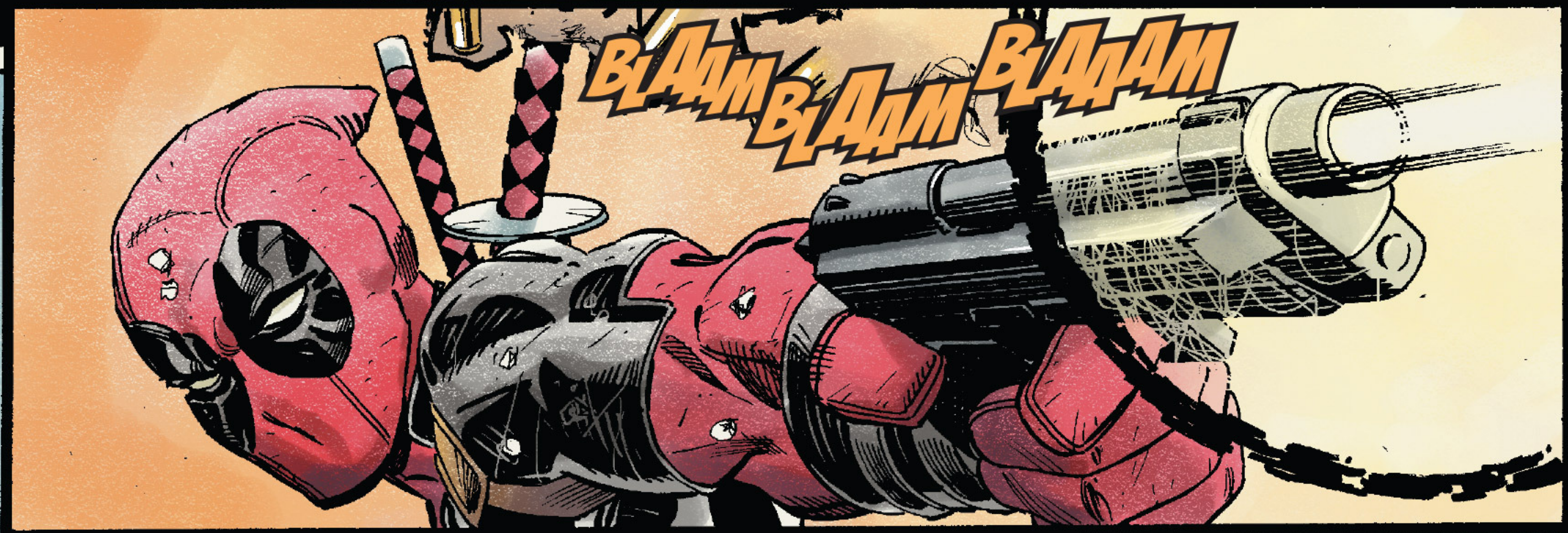
INTERESTING
NOTION. ONE
PROBLEM:

THE
WORLD'S NOT
AT WAR.



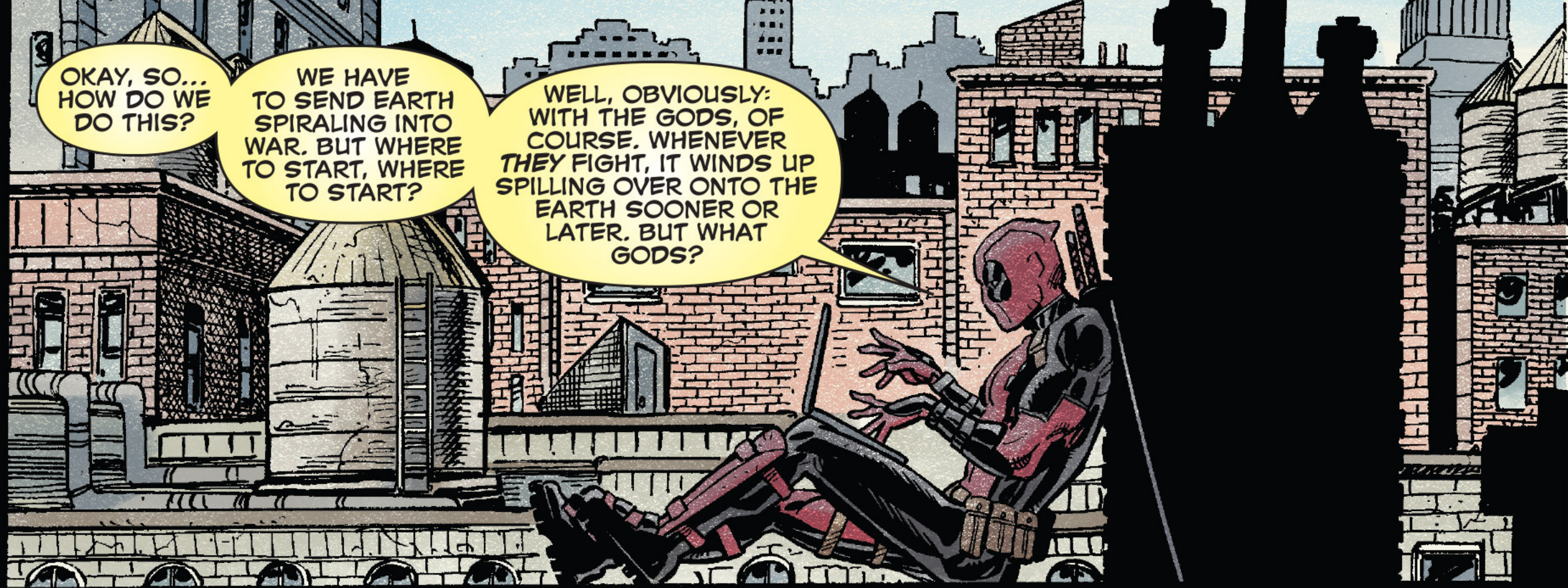
DAY'S
YOUNG.

BY THE
WAY...



...DON'T
SHOOT ME
AGAIN.

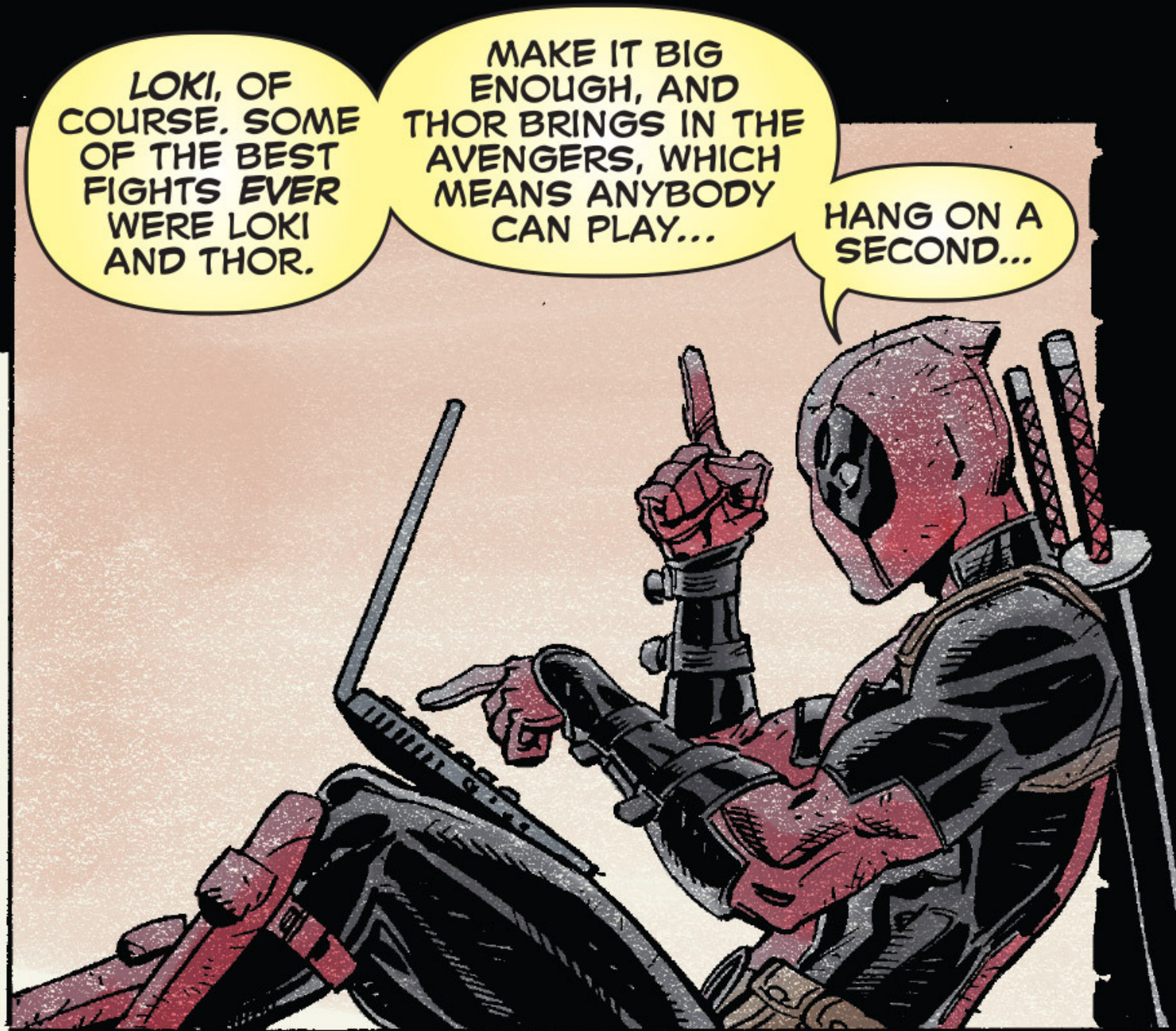
SO
NOTED.



OKAY, SO...
HOW DO WE
DO THIS?

WE HAVE
TO SEND EARTH
SPIRALING INTO
WAR. BUT WHERE
TO START, WHERE
TO START?

WELL, OBVIOUSLY:
WITH THE GODS, OF
COURSE. WHENEVER
THEY FIGHT, IT WINDS UP
SPILLING OVER ONTO THE
EARTH SOONER OR
LATER. BUT WHAT
GODS?



LOKI, OF
COURSE. SOME
OF THE BEST
FIGHTS EVER
WERE LOKI
AND THOR.

MAKE IT BIG
ENOUGH, AND
THOR BRINGS IN THE
AVENGERS, WHICH
MEANS ANYBODY
CAN PLAY...

HANG ON A
SECOND...



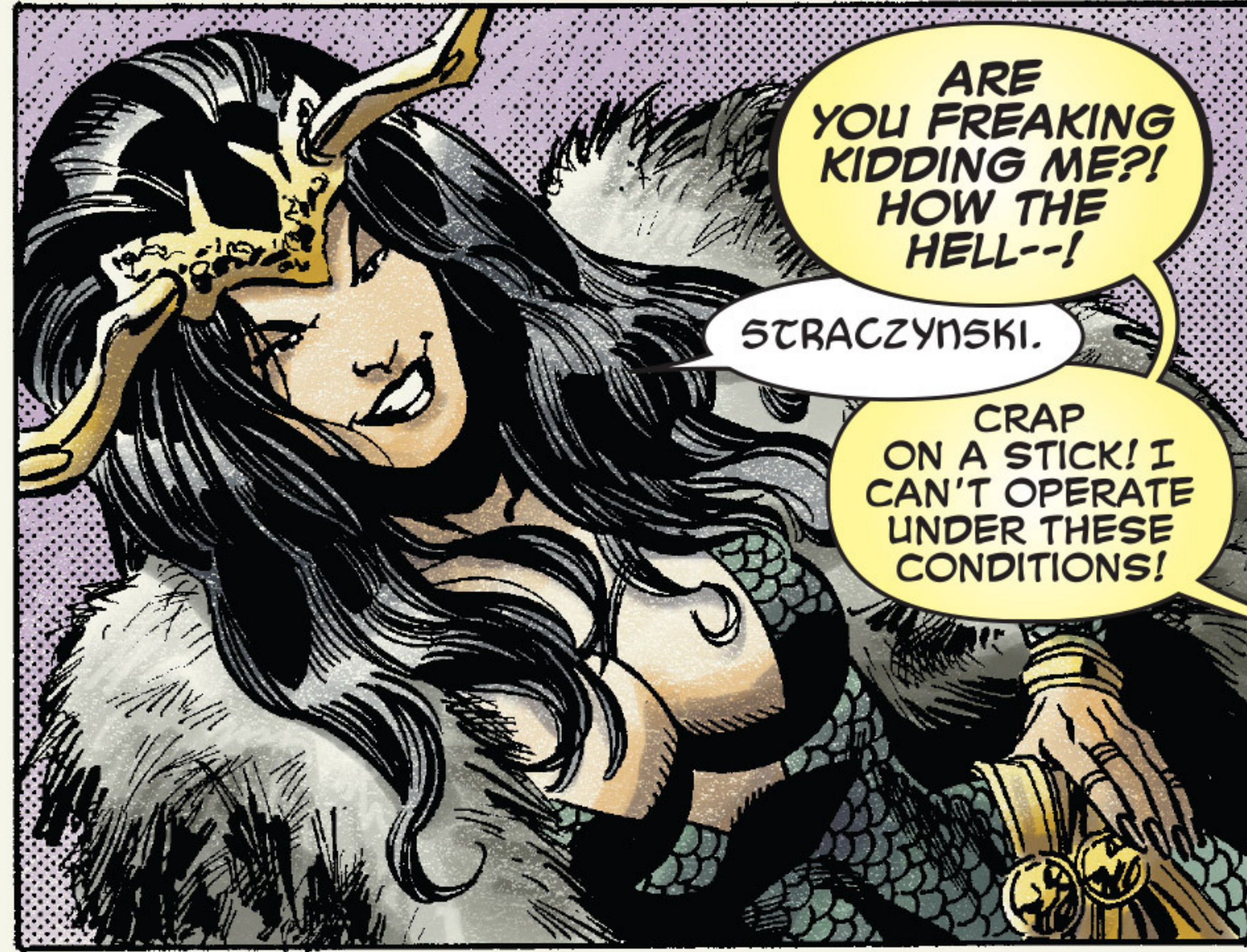
LOKI'S A
KID?! WHOSE
BRIGHT IDEA
WAS THAT?!

WELL, THAT'S
NO GOOD! THAT'S
NOT THE LOKI WE
NEED!

MATT
FRACTION.



WE
NEED--



ARE
YOU FREAKING
KIDDING ME?!
HOW THE
HELL--!

STRACZYNSKI.

CRAP
ON A STICK! I
CAN'T OPERATE
UNDER THESE
CONDITIONS!



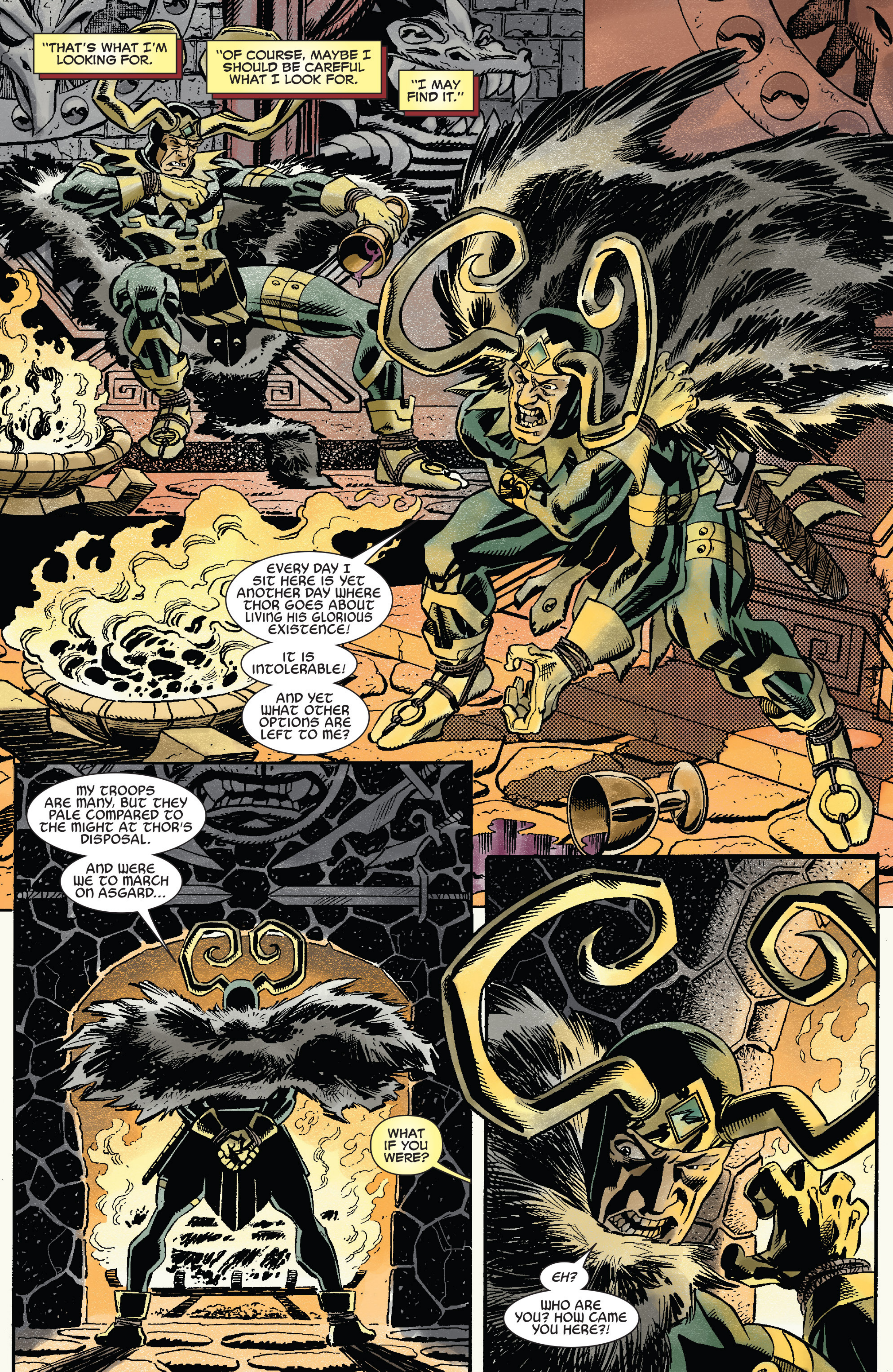
OKAY, SCREW CONTINUITY.
I'M GOING FOR CLASSIC,
STANDARD, OLD-STYLE
HEROES AND VILLAINS
AND THE FANS CAN
JUST DEAL WITH IT.



"THERE WE GO. LOKI,
THE WAY HE OUGHTA
BE, CIRCA SILVER
SURFER #4.

"TOTAL BAD ASS
AND GUNNING
FOR THOR...

"...LIVING EXILED IN A
CASTLE SURROUNDED
BY HIS MINIONS.



"THAT'S WHAT I'M
LOOKING FOR."

"OF COURSE, MAYBE I
SHOULD BE CAREFUL
WHAT I LOOK FOR."

"I MAY
FIND IT."

EVERY DAY I
SIT HERE IS YET
ANOTHER DAY WHERE
THOR GOES ABOUT
LIVING HIS GLORIOUS
EXISTENCE!

IT IS
INTOLERABLE!

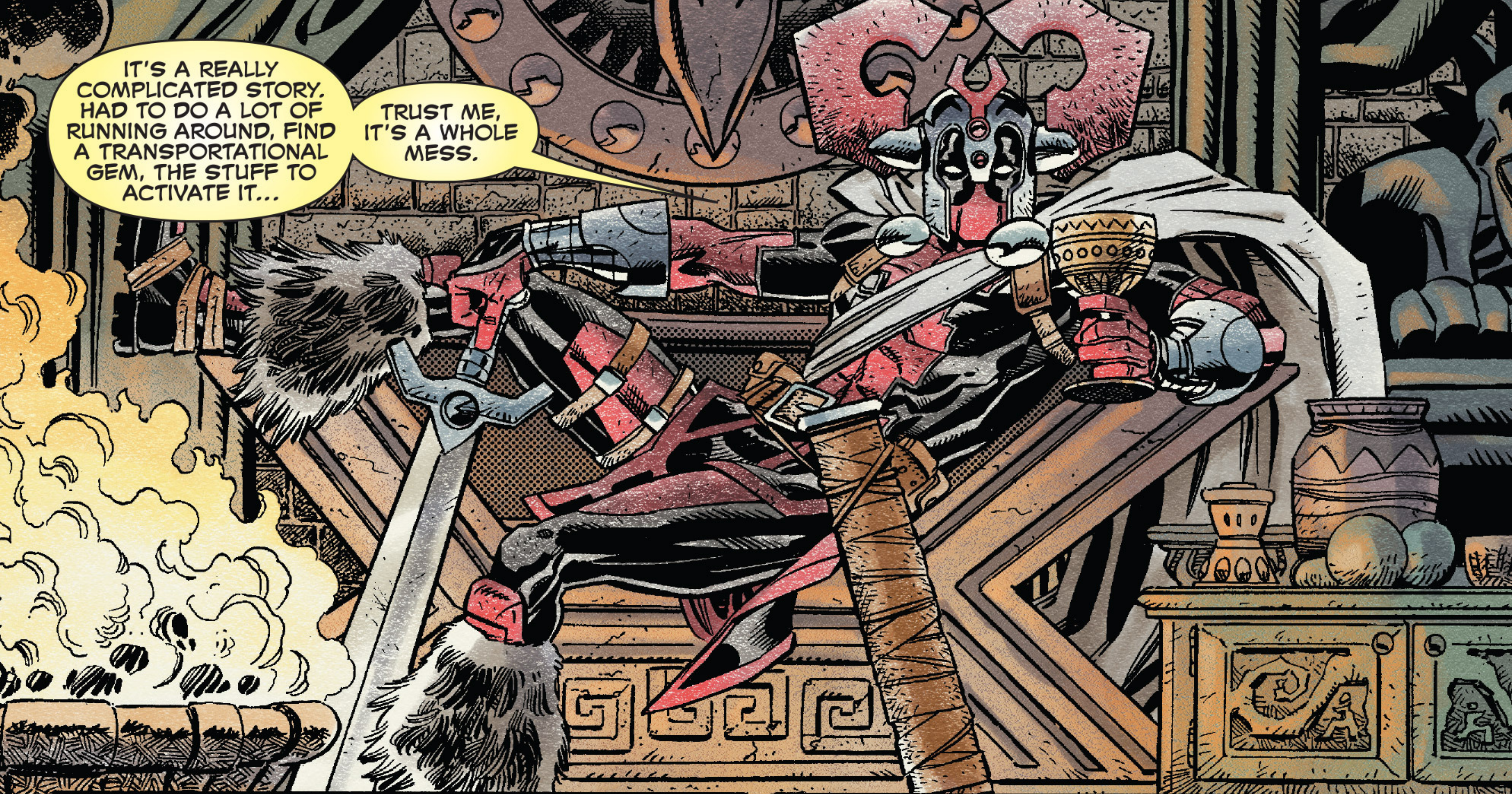
AND YET
WHAT OTHER
OPTIONS ARE
LEFT TO ME?

MY TROOPS
ARE MANY, BUT THEY
PALE COMPARED TO
THE MIGHT AT THOR'S
DISPOSAL.

AND WERE
WE TO MARCH
ON ASGARD...

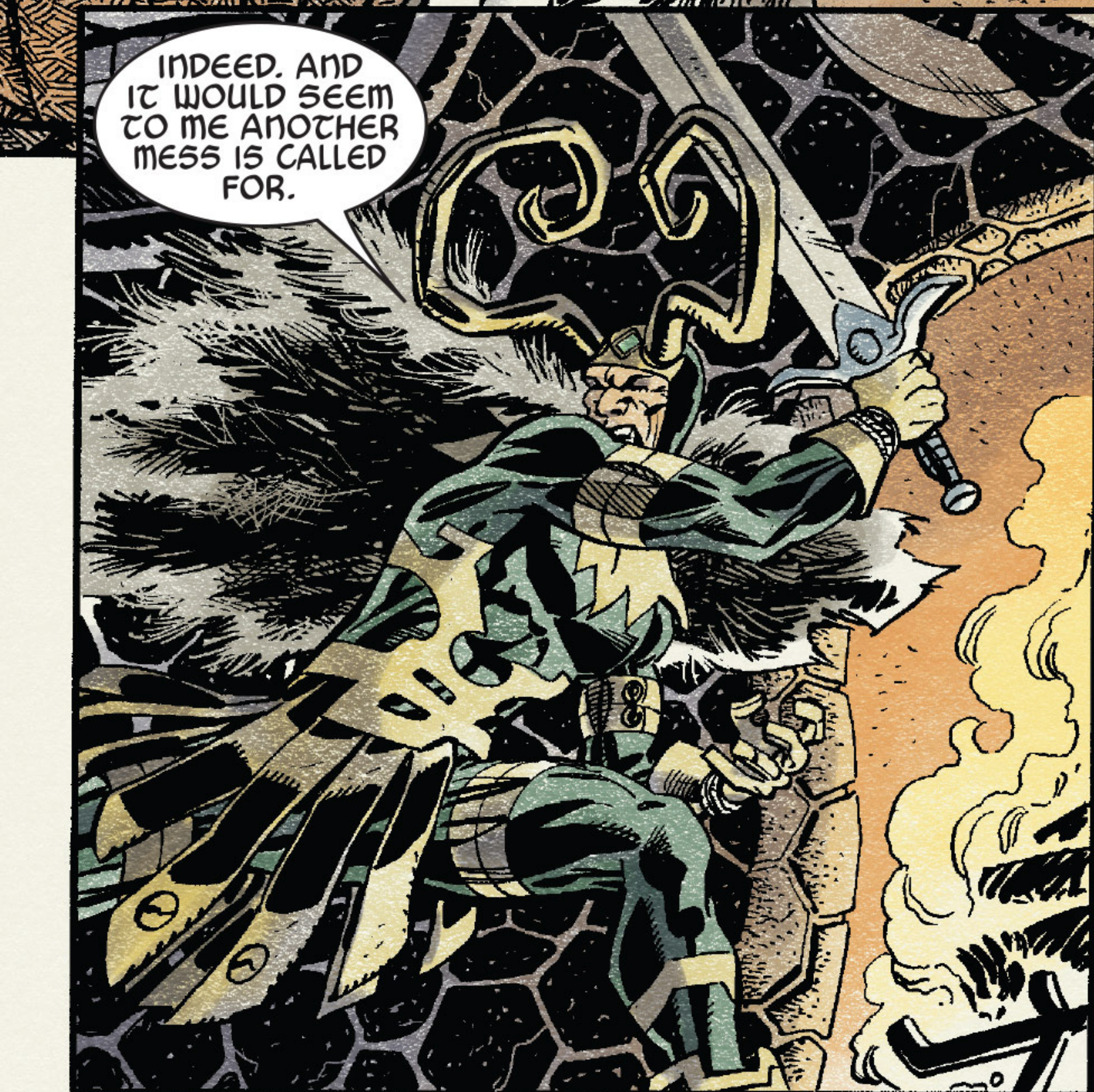
WHAT
IF YOU
WERE?

EH?
WHO ARE
YOU? HOW CAME
YOU HERE?!



IT'S A REALLY COMPLICATED STORY. HAD TO DO A LOT OF RUNNING AROUND, FIND A TRANSPORTATIONAL GEM, THE STUFF TO ACTIVATE IT...

TRUST ME, IT'S A WHOLE MESS.



INDEED. AND IT WOULD SEEM TO ME ANOTHER MESS IS CALLED FOR.



WHOA! OKAY, LET'S CALM DOWN, SHALL WE?

AND NOW THE MORTAL SEEKS TO GIVE ME ORDERS? DOES YOUR TEMERITY KNOW NO BOUNDS?



IT KNOWS PLENTY OF BOUNDS.

IT ALSO KNOWS HOW TO HELP YOU TAKE ON YOUR BROTHER!



...



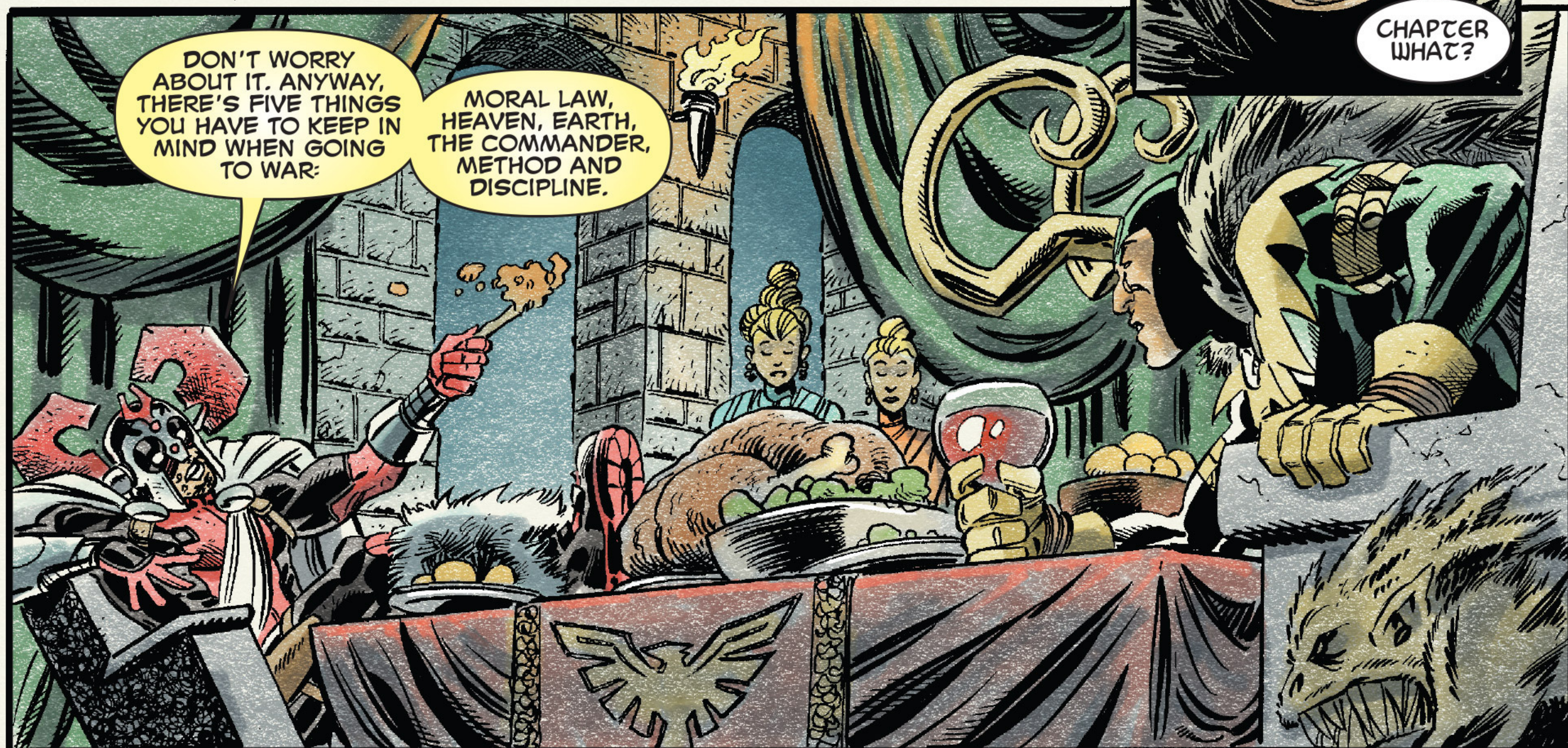
SPEAK THEN,
MORTAL.

SPEAK
QUICKLY, 'ERE
I CHANGE MY
MIND.

OKAY...
CHAPTER ONE...

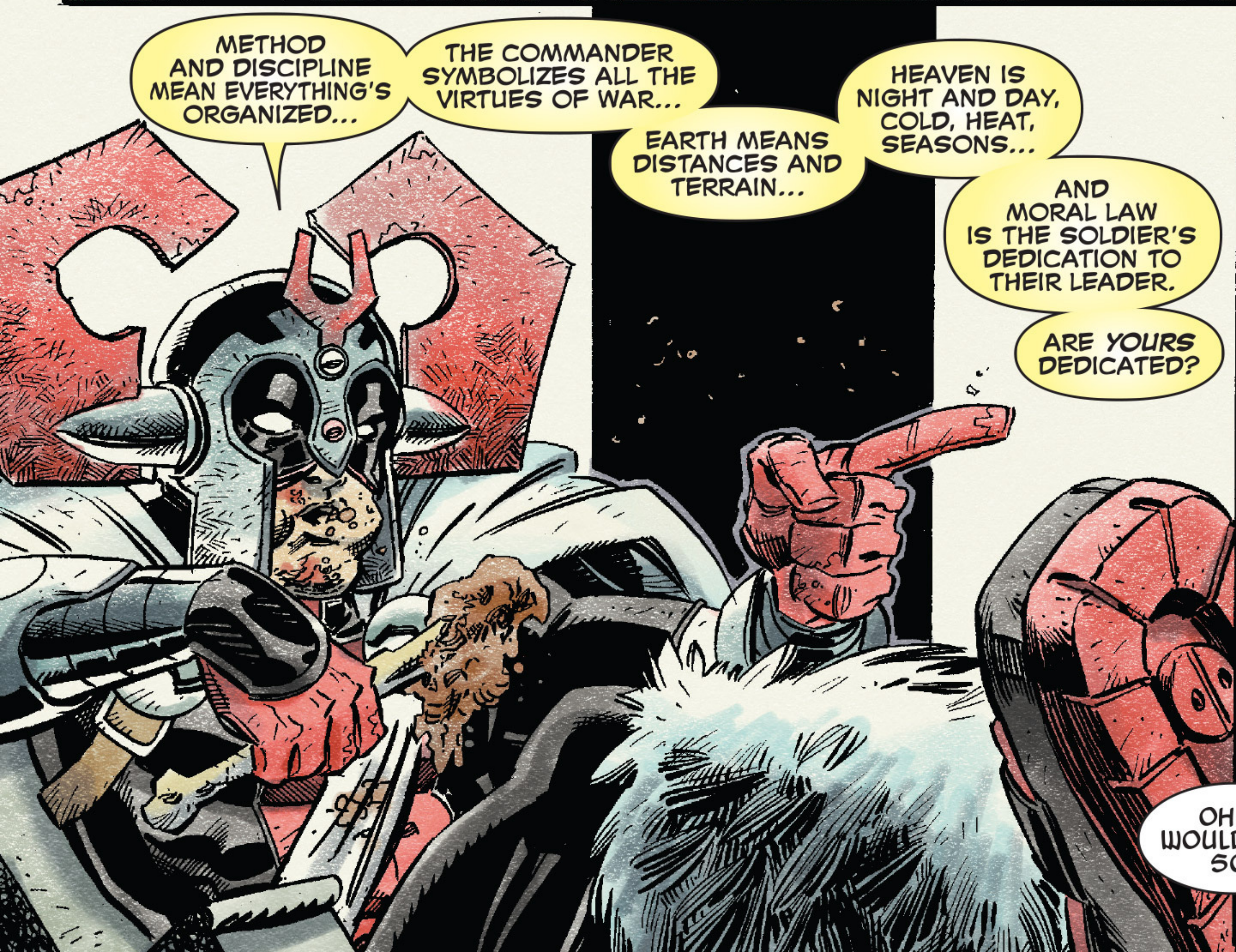


CHAPTER
WHAT?



DON'T WORRY
ABOUT IT. ANYWAY,
THERE'S FIVE THINGS
YOU HAVE TO KEEP IN
MIND WHEN GOING
TO WAR:

MORAL LAW,
HEAVEN, EARTH,
THE COMMANDER,
METHOD AND
DISCIPLINE.



METHOD
AND DISCIPLINE
MEAN EVERYTHING'S
ORGANIZED...

THE COMMANDER
SYMBOLIZES ALL THE
VIRTUES OF WAR...

EARTH MEANS
DISTANCES AND
TERRAIN...

HEAVEN IS
NIGHT AND DAY,
COLD, HEAT,
SEASONS...

AND
MORAL LAW
IS THE SOLDIER'S
DEDICATION TO
THEIR LEADER.

ARE YOURS
DEDICATED?



OH, I
WOULD SAY
50.



ALL HAIL LOKI!

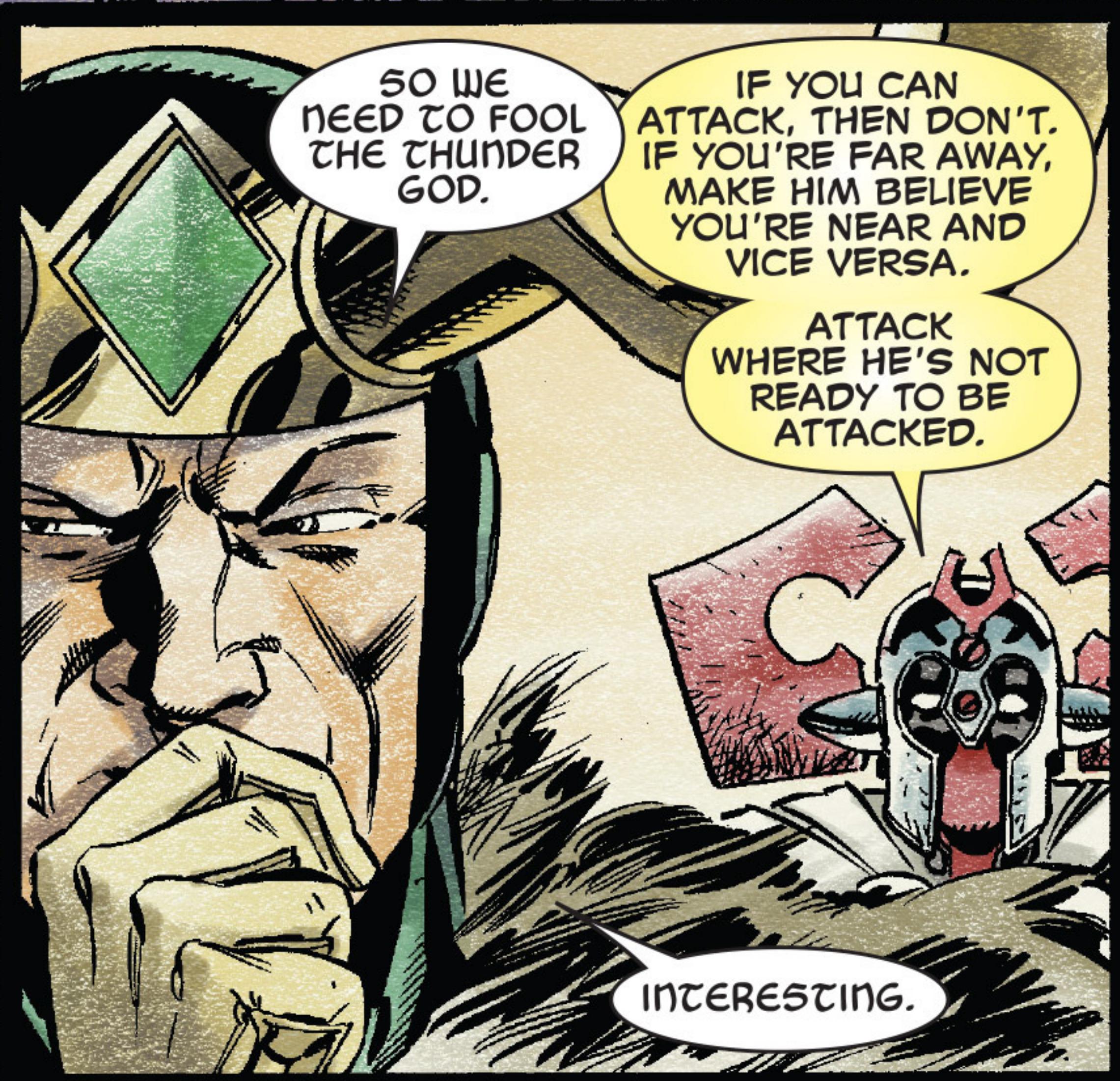
YEAH,
OKAY, THIS'LL
WORK.



AND NOW--?

ALL WARFARE IS BASED ON DECEPTION. ON FOOLING YOUR OPPONENT.

MAKE YOUR OPPONENT BELIEVE THE OPPOSITE OF WHAT'S REAL.

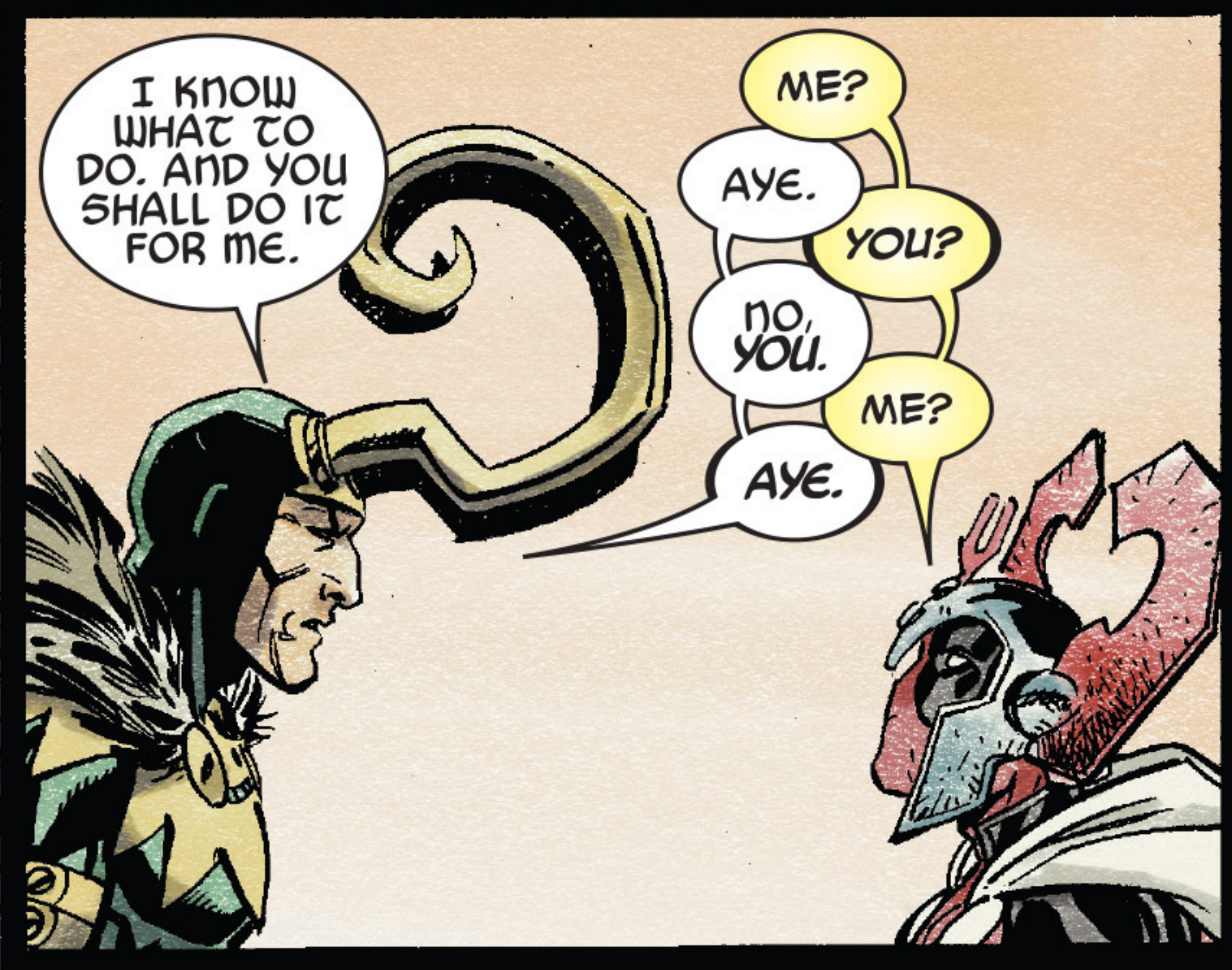


SO WE NEED TO FOOL THE THUNDER GOD.

IF YOU CAN ATTACK, THEN DON'T. IF YOU'RE FAR AWAY, MAKE HIM BELIEVE YOU'RE NEAR AND VICE VERSA.

ATTACK WHERE HE'S NOT READY TO BE ATTACKED.

INTERESTING.



I KNOW WHAT TO DO. AND YOU SHALL DO IT FOR ME.

ME?

AYE.

YOU?

NO, YOU.

ME?

AYE.



YOU...KEEP SAYING "I."

YES.

SO I SHOULD DO IT?

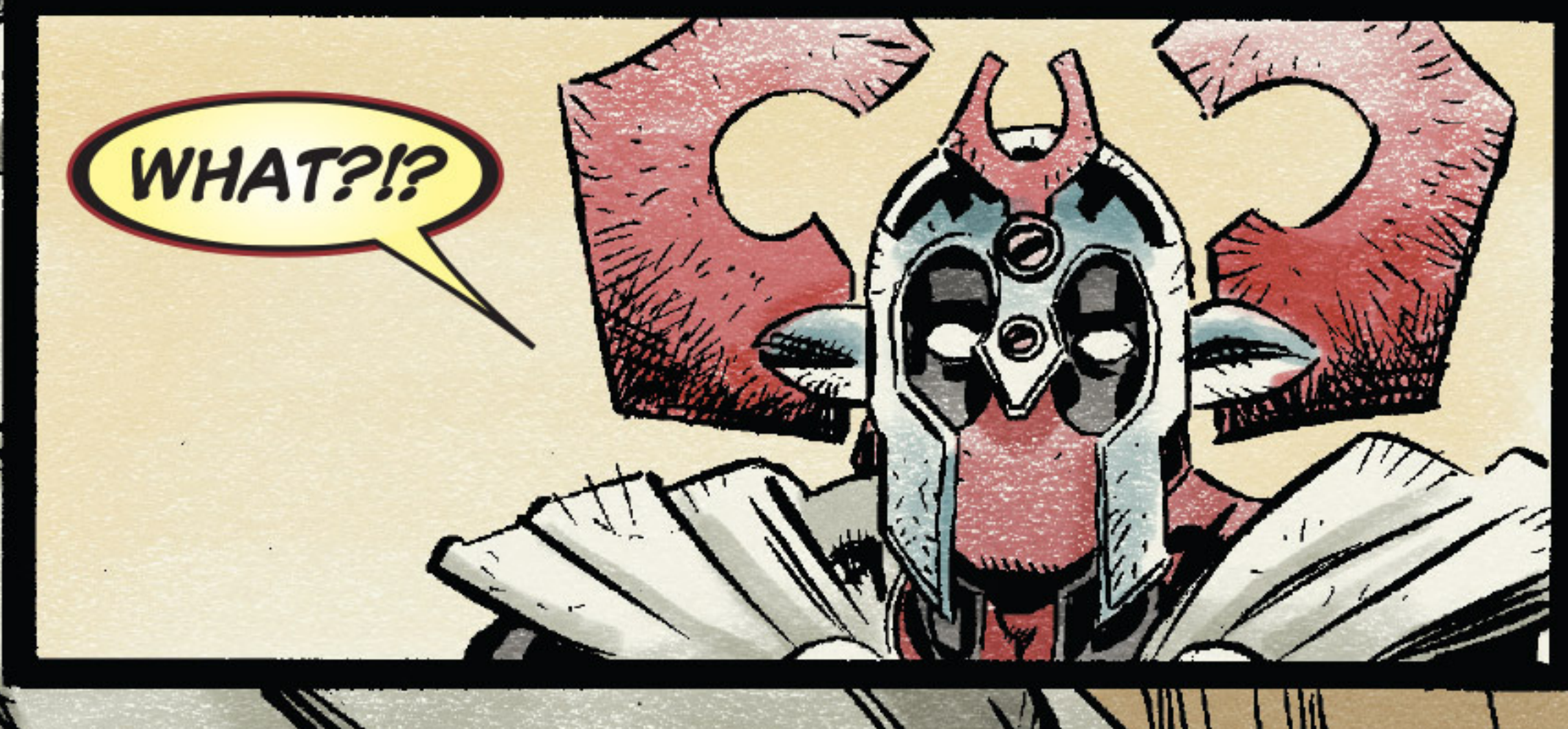
AYE.

WAIT, SO YOU'LL DO IT?

NO, YOU.

I?

GOOD. WE AGREE.



WHAT?!?



SO LOKI IS UP TO NO GOOD, EH?

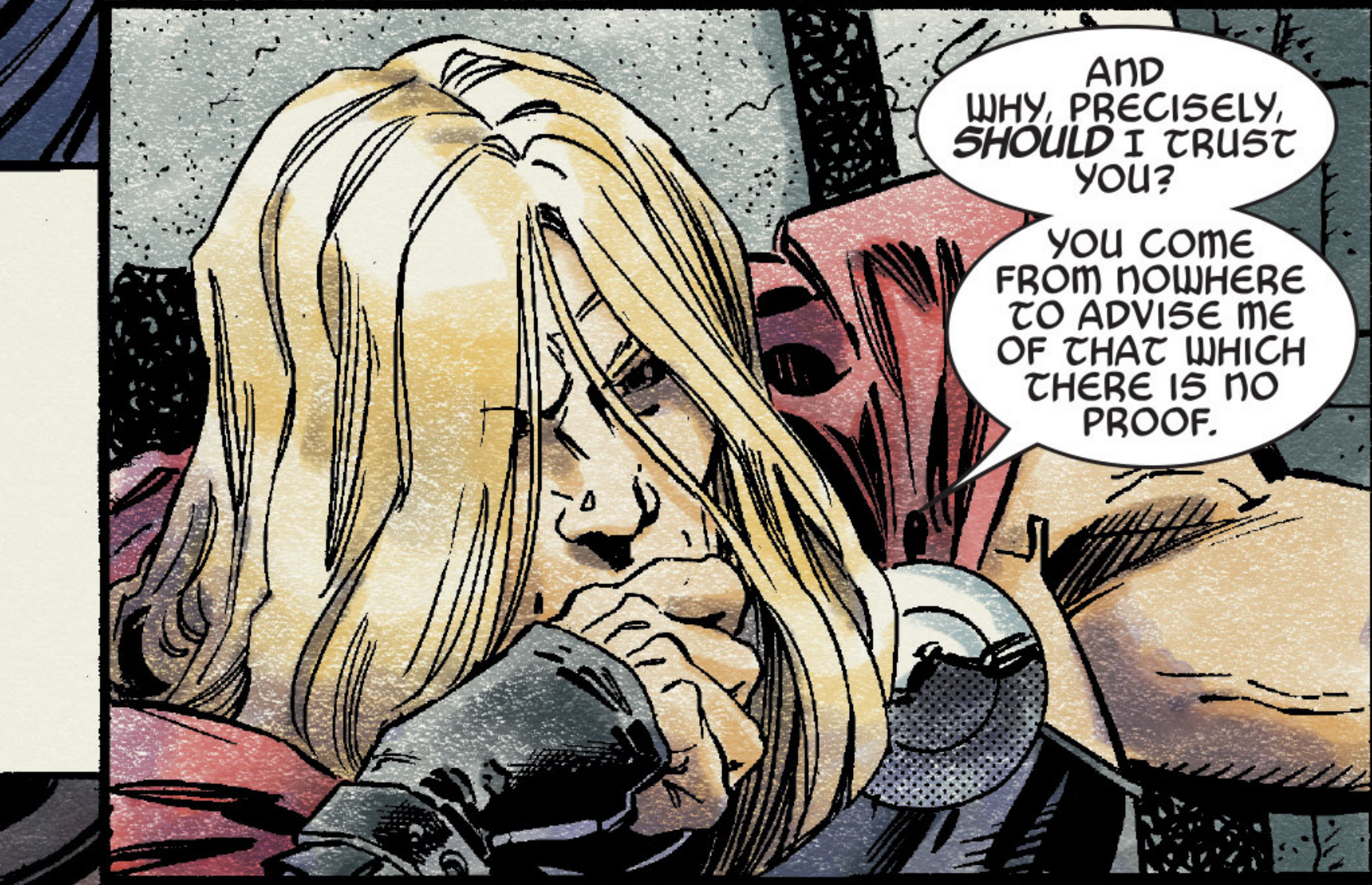


AND YOU SAY YOU ARE AN ADVISOR OF HIS?

YUP. THAT'S ME ALL RIGHT, THOR.

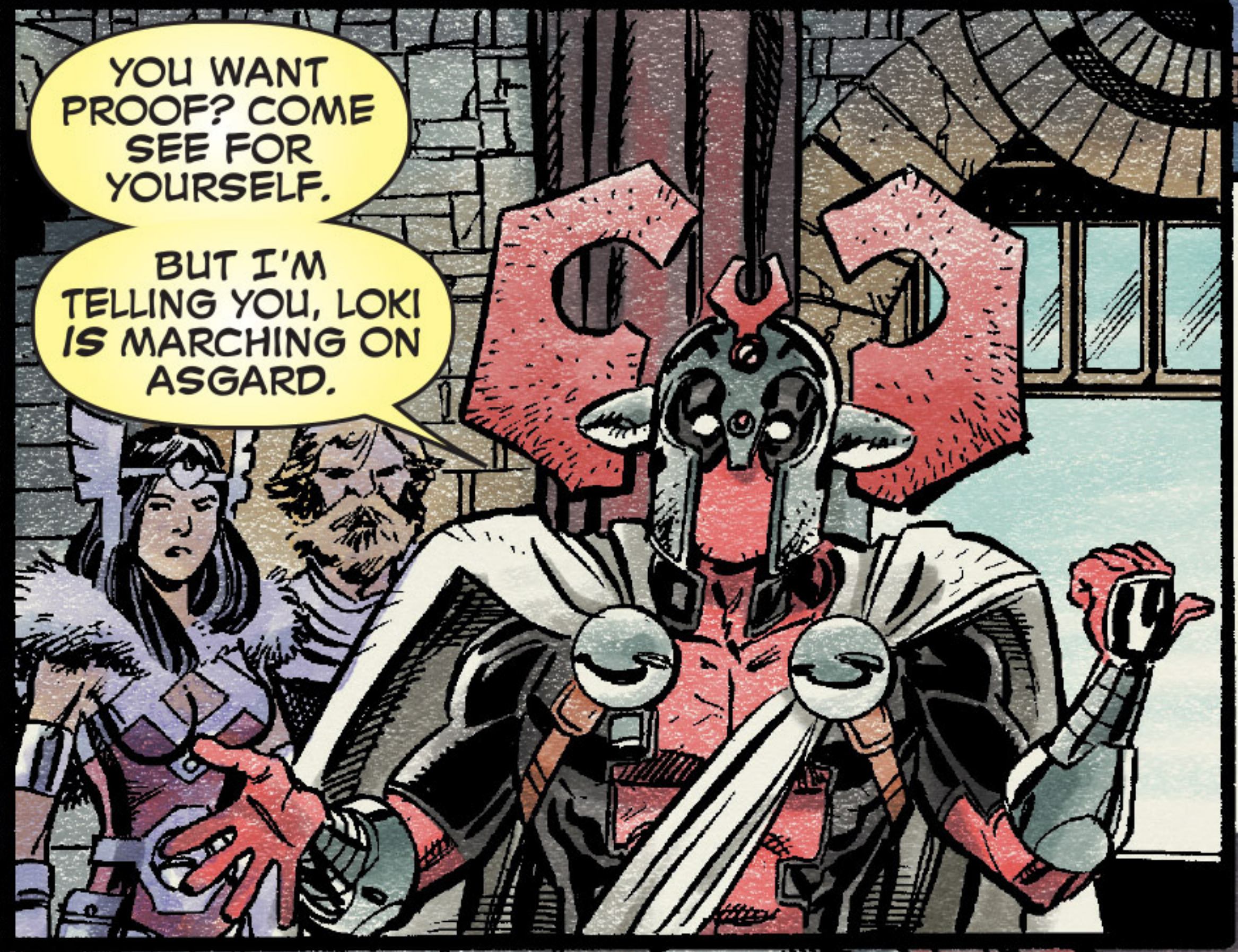
YOU DO NOT STRIKE ME AS THE ADVISORY TYPE.

OH, I AM. TRUST ME.



AND WHY, PRECISELY, SHOULD I TRUST YOU?

YOU COME FROM NOWHERE TO ADVISE ME OF THAT WHICH THERE IS NO PROOF.



YOU WANT PROOF? COME SEE FOR YOURSELF.

BUT I'M TELLING YOU, LOKI IS MARCHING ON ASGARD.



WHAT HARM IN CHECKING IF HIS FACTS ARE TRUE, THUNDERER?

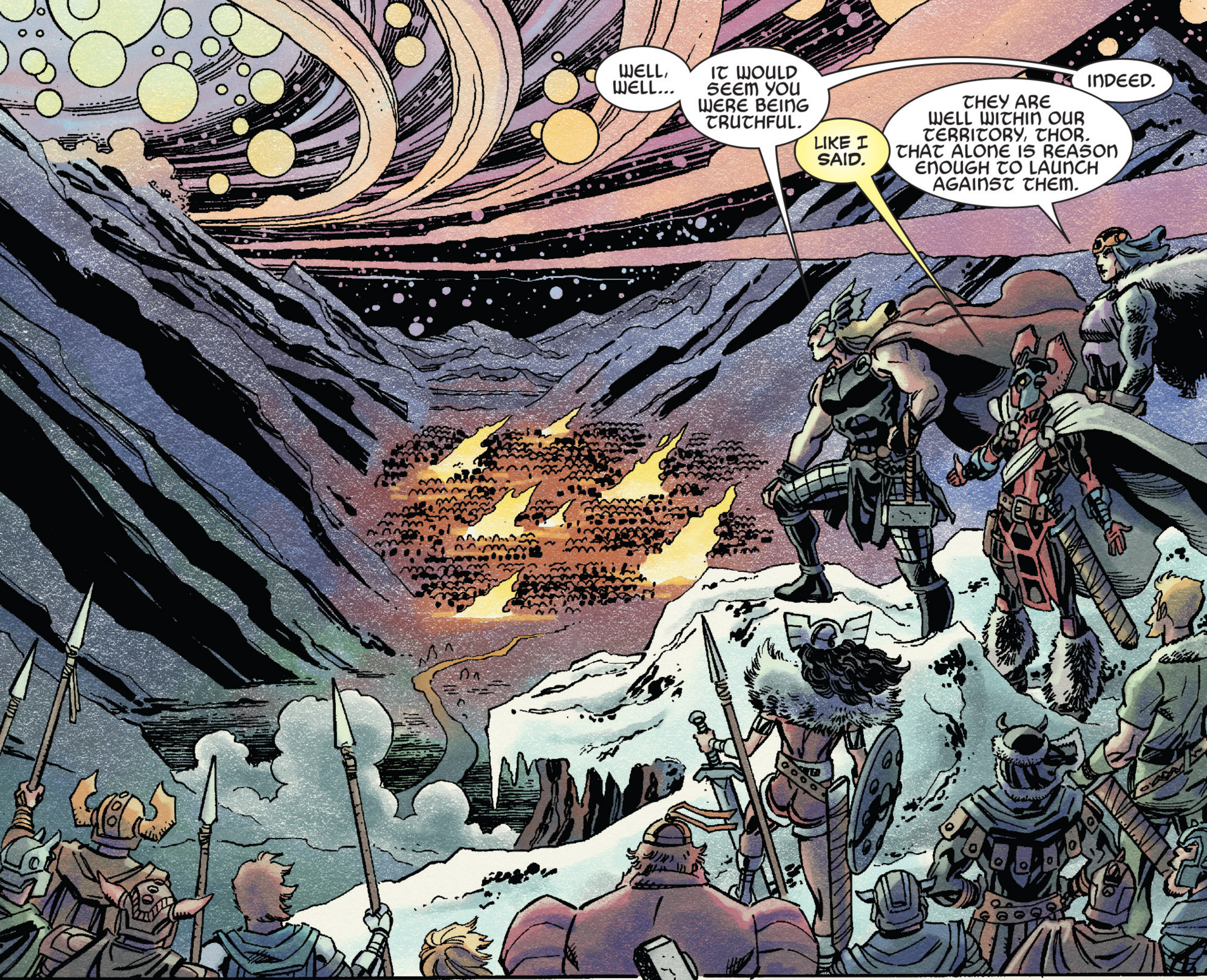


FANDRAL IS RIGHT. WHERE INDEED THE HARM?



VERY WELL, THEN. AND YOU HAD BEST NOT BE LYING, MORTAL.

WOULD I LIE?



WELL,
WELL...

IT WOULD
SEEM YOU
WERE BEING
TRUTHFUL.

LIKE I
SAID.

THEY ARE
WELL WITHIN OUR
TERRITORY, THOR.
THAT ALONE IS REASON
ENOUGH TO LAUNCH
AGAINST THEM.

INDEED.



INTO BATTLE,
THEN! LET MY BROTHER
KNOW THAT ASGARD
PROVIDES NO SAFE
HAVEN FOR HIM!



HERE HE
COMES.

PREPARE
THYSELVES.



A VALID QUESTION INDEED. DIDST THOU THINK TO ESCAPE NOTICE?

ACTUALLY...
I *COUNTED* ON BEING NOTICED.



RUUUUMBLE

HOW NOW?

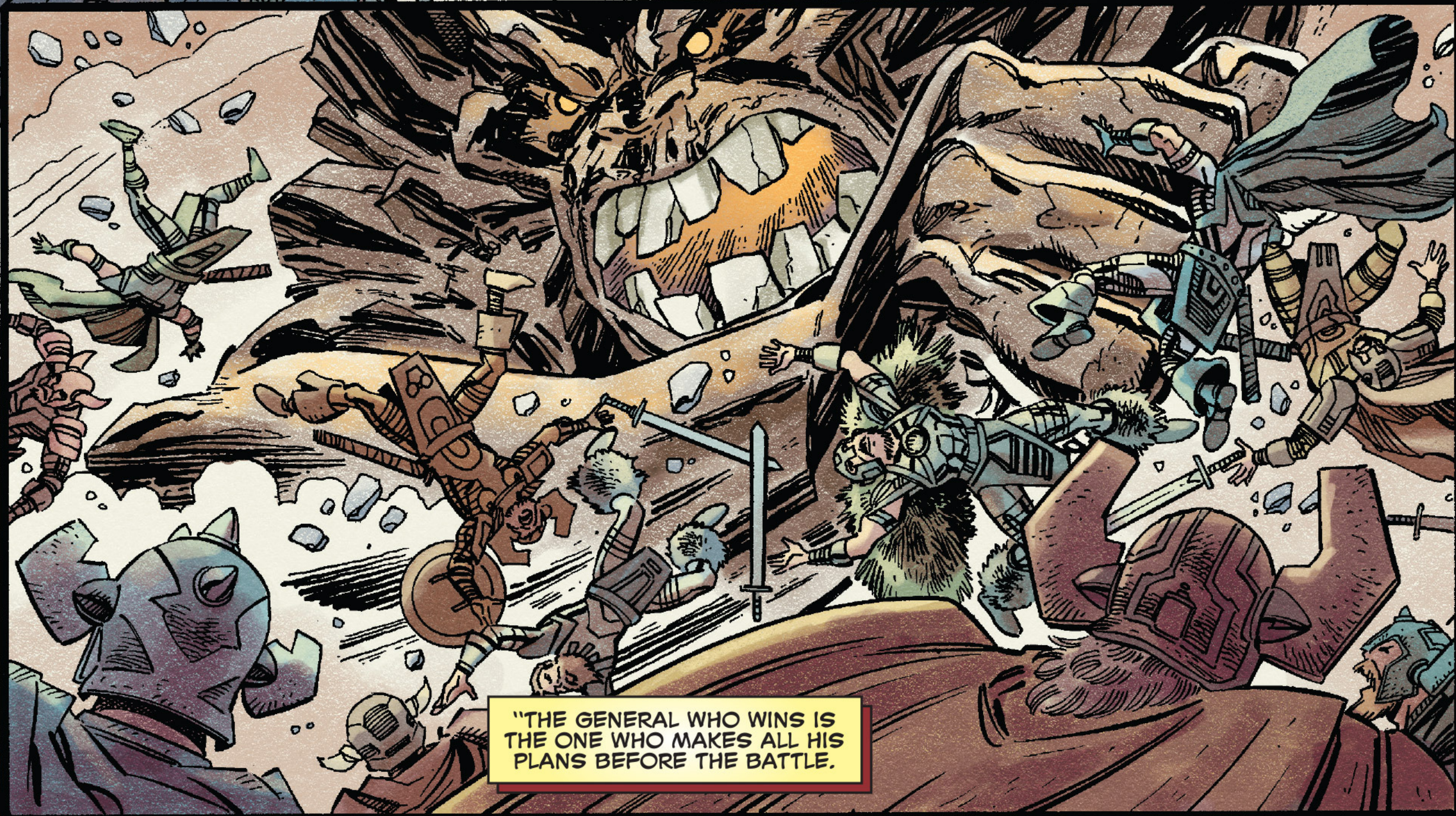
I MISLIKE THE SOUND OF THAT.





"ATTACK YOUR
OPPONENT WHEN
HE'S NOT READY."

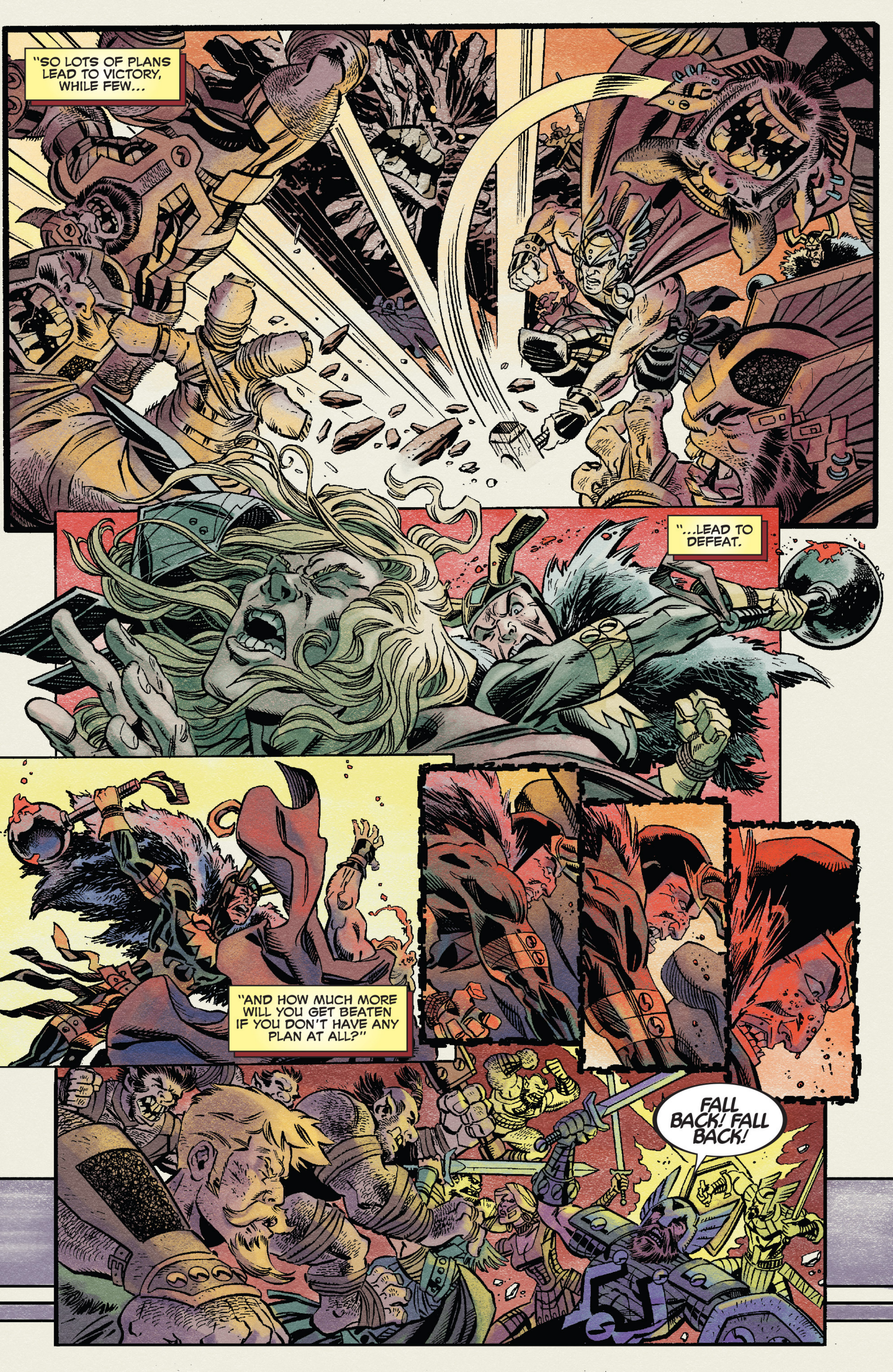
"APPEAR WHEN
HE DOESN'T
EXPECT YOU."



"THE GENERAL WHO WINS IS
THE ONE WHO MAKES ALL HIS
PLANS BEFORE THE BATTLE."



"THE GENERAL WHO LOSES
IS THE ONE WHO DOESN'T
MAKE MANY PLANS
BEFOREHAND."



"SO LOTS OF PLANS
LEAD TO VICTORY,
WHILE FEW...

"...LEAD TO
DEFEAT.

"AND HOW MUCH MORE
WILL YOU GET BEATEN
IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANY
PLAN AT ALL?"

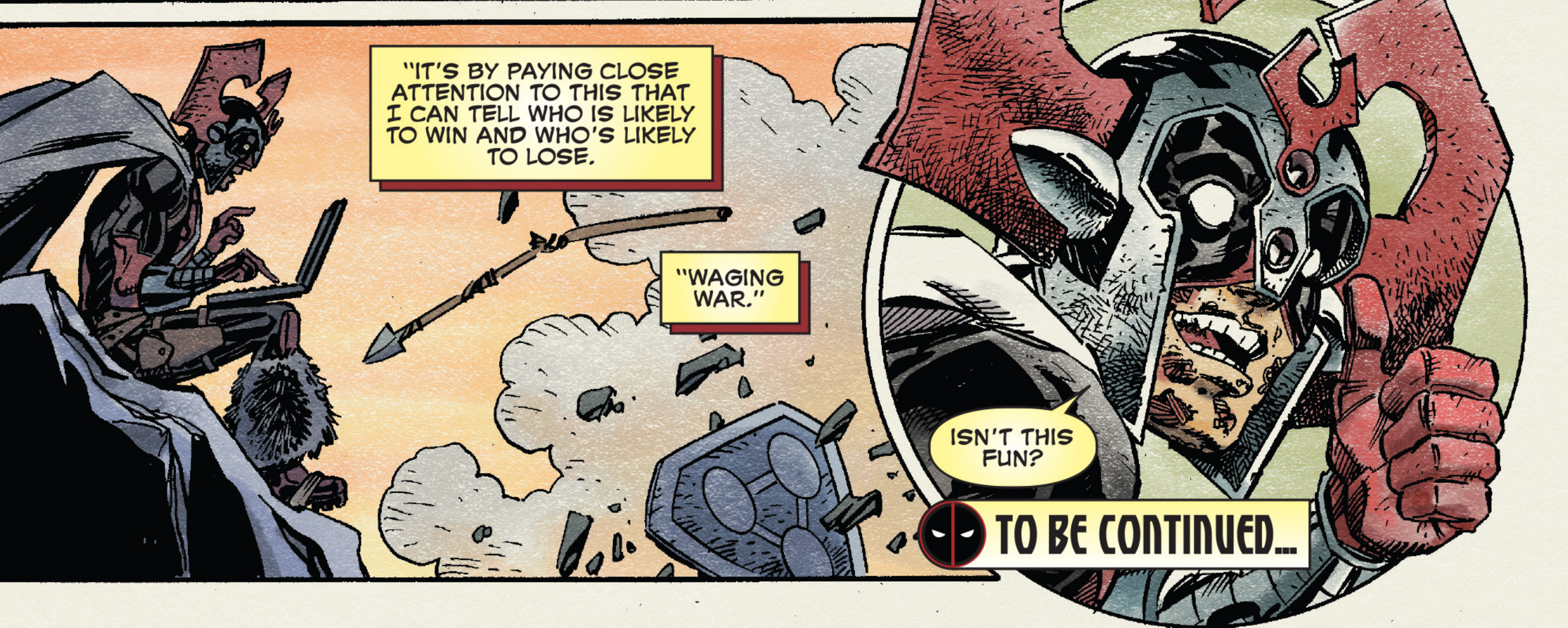
FALL
BACK! FALL
BACK!



YES, BY ALL MEANS, FALL BACK.

LEAVE MY BROTHER'S FATE TO ME. I PROMISE YOU...

HE WILL BE WELL ATTENDED TO.



"IT'S BY PAYING CLOSE ATTENTION TO THIS THAT I CAN TELL WHO IS LIKELY TO WIN AND WHO'S LIKELY TO LOSE."

"WAGING WAR."

ISN'T THIS FUN?

TO BE CONTINUED...